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'Robocop' faces leak inquiry

Zero tolerance police chief is suspended

By PAUL WILKINSON AND STEWART TENDLER

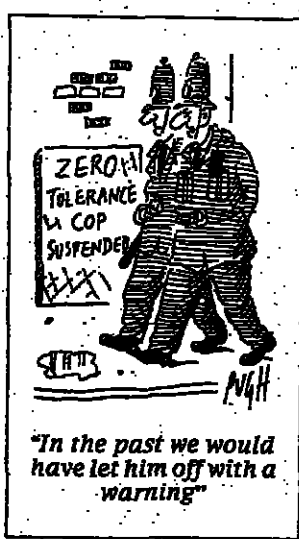
BRITAIN'S leading exponent of "zero tolerance" policing was suspended from duty yesterday amid allegations that he leaked information and may have been involved in criminal conduct.

Detective Superintendent Raymond Mallon, the head of Middlesbrough CID and darling of both Labour and Tory politicians, was sent home as part of a corruption investigation that has already seen the suspension of two detectives over claims that prisoners were given drugs in exchange for confessions.

The decision was announced by Cleveland's Assistant Chief Constable Robert Turnbull, who said: "I have found it necessary to suspend Raymond Mallon from duty arising from allegations which relate to the disclosure of information of a confidential nature about the current investigation to a third party."

A second allegation concerned "activity which could be construed as criminal conduct". Mr Turnbull refused to give further details, but police sources said that Mr Mallon was accused of leaking information to the media. Investigators were also said to be examining suggestions that he might have turned a blind eye to activities of junior officers.

Mr Mallon — who recently said there was no room for "mavericks or cowboys" in his force — insisted, however, that



"In the past we would have let him off with a warning"

he had done nothing wrong, adding: "I have nothing to worry about."

His solicitor, Andrew Brook, said: "Mr Mallon strongly denies the allegations against him. He has been suspended. We will sue anyone, including the Chief Constable, who suggests that he is guilty of criminal activity."

Nicknamed "Robocop", Mr Mallon was once described as so clean his officers could almost hear him squeak as he walked around the station. The non-smoking, teetotal son of an undertaker, he has become the dread of criminals in the North East and the bane of liberal chief constables who believe that confrontational

American-style policing is unacceptable in Britain.

But politicians have clamoured at his door to hear Mallon's Law — the British version of "zero tolerance" — and Tony Blair, Jack Straw and Michael Howard have praised his hardline strategy.

Just before the general election, Mr Howard visited Middlesbrough and said of Mr Mallon: "He's my kind of cop". During the campaign, Mr Mallon briefed Mr Blair, who told him: "You're clearly getting results." And this autumn Mr Straw said that police across Britain could learn from Mr Mallon's force.

Mr Mallon's philosophy is that the police have become too negative. He tells his officers to concentrate on burglary, antisocial behaviour and the quality of life on the streets. Under his "Here and Now" strategy, police are encouraged to challenge teenage gangs and instructed to act if they see someone cycling on the pavement or dropping litter.

He first put his theories to the test in Hartlepool, cutting crime by 38 per cent in 28 months as the local detective chief inspector. Promoted to Middlesbrough last December, he promised to resign if crime was not down by 20 per cent in 18 months; by September it was down by 25 per cent.

Mr Mallon, a 43-year-old father of two, is also seen to practice what he preaches. He never cuts a corner or crosses the grass on his daily lunchtime run and when a teenager tampered with his car in April, he gave chase for ten minutes until the youth collapsed into his hands.

But some senior officers are unconvinced. Charles Pollard, the Thames Valley Chief Constable, suggested that tough policing could provoke disorder and distrust. Civil rights groups are also critical about the sharp rise in the number of people being stopped and searched, and about the Cleveland force's use of CS sprays.

His approach was, however, upheld by Mr Turnbull even as he announced Mr Mallon's suspension. He said: "These allegations are in no way connected with the zero tolerance which every member of the force practises. Positive policing, as we call it, will continue to be operated by the force. Zero tolerance is bigger than one man."



Countess Spencer arriving at court in Cape Town for yesterday's hearing

Spencers discuss deal

FROM JOANNA BALE IN CAPE TOWN

THE EARL and Countess Spencer were in talks with their lawyers late last night amid speculation that they were negotiating an out of court divorce settlement.

The earl is said to be keen to avoid another week of damaging allegations.

The hearing at Cape Town's Supreme Court was suddenly halted at 2.20pm yesterday as John Lockwood, the first witness for the countess, was about to give evidence against his son-in-law, Shelley-Anne Claircourt, the earl's spokeswoman, confirmed that a settlement was being discussed, but emerged an hour later and insisted the hearing would continue today.

"They are not discussing a settlement," she said. "Discussions are taking place regarding striking out some of the lawyers' privilege letters that

were discussed on the first day of court."

During the morning's proceedings Nicholas Mostyn, the earl's British QC, told the court that his client had been upset at the way the case had proceeded.

Asked by Jeremy Gauntlett, Lady Spencer's barrister, what he would recommend to the countess if he represented her, instead of her husband, Mr Mostyn said he would advise a lump settlement rather than maintenance. The earl is proposing to pay his wife £300,000, plus £2,500 a month maintenance. The countess wants £3.5 million of her husband's £100 million fortune as a lump sum.

Mr Mostyn said: "I would be going for a clean break probably, but I would have to say that this would be high risk gambling. I would have to

ask her, do you want the security which maintenance will give you, or do you want to take a chance, because if it's a clean break, it's a big chance. It would be a finite amount of money and it could run out."

When asked by Mr Gauntlett whether he thought a maintenance plan would be undignified, he disagreed, saying: "There is no spectre of the husband losing his job, being made redundant or going bankrupt. In this case, the money is as secure as the Bank of England. It comes from his landed estates. It's absolutely guaranteed."

A barrister representing the earl, Leslie Weinkove, was seen talking to Mr Gauntlett during a morning coffee break and handing him a yellow piece of paper with a figure of £2 million written on the top of a list of 10 points.

Blair delights Lib Dems with referendum on voting system

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR opened the way to changing Britain's voting system yesterday by appointing a commission to recommend alternatives and promising a referendum before the next general election.

In a move welcomed by Paddy Ashdown as "a truly historic moment in British democratic history", Mr Blair put Lord Jenkins of Hillhead in charge of the exercise to devise a replacement for the first-past-the-post formula.

Although the Prime Minister was reported still to be "unpersuaded" of the case for proportional representation, the Liberal Democrat leadership was delighted both by the terms of reference for the commission and by its members, most of whom have in the past publicly backed a change in voting methods.

The commission will start work in the new year and report within 12 months, leaving adequate time for a referendum in late 1999 or 2000. Its task is to come up with a "broadly proportional" alternative to first-past-the-post.

But the key to change will be the stance taken by Mr Blair and the Cabinet at that time. Senior ministers say that, even if the electorate voted for a change, it would be difficult to make the necessary legislative and boundary changes before the next general election.

Some ministers close to Mr Blair believe that he has by no means ruled out the possibility of change early in the next Parliament, meaning that the election after next could be fought on a different system. Many in the Labour leadership are opposed to any change, but some of those prepared to contemplate it, including it is believed Mr Blair, might back the Australian alternative vote (AV) system of preferential voting. At

present, the Liberal Democrat leadership says that such a system on its own would be unacceptable because it is not proportional; however, it does not rule out a variant combining AV and PR.

Any change will retain some kind of link between MPs and constituencies, but the alternatives to be considered almost certainly will involve the election of some MPs according to the proportion of votes cast.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the commission will be "free to consider and recommend any appropriate system or combination of systems" and shall "observe the requirement for broad proportionality, the need for stable government, an extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between members and geographical constituencies".

Mr Ashdown said that the establishment of the commission would prove to be a decisive moment in the evolution of the constitution: "We are embarking on a process which, with the consent of the people, could alter for ever the nature of our democracy and give us a constitution in which real power lies with voters."

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "In every country where the parliament is elected by proportional representation, undue influence is given to minority parties. That is why the Liberal Democrats are so keen on it."

As well as Lord Jenkins, the members of the commission will be Lord Alexander of Weedon, the Conservative peer; Lady Gould of Potternewton, a Labour peer; Sir John Chilcot, the retiring Permanent Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office; and David Lipsey, an economist and political journalist.



Mallon: "I have nothing to worry about"

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Brown battles for place in new EU economic group

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN was fighting an uphill battle last night to persuade its main EU partners not to lock it out of a "euro-council", a body to manage the single currency. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, claimed such a move would risk splitting Europe.

After five hours of talks, Mr Brown had made little headway in his quarrel, which united Britain with Sweden, Denmark and Greece against the proposed body, backed by the 11 states due to launch the euro. Although the forum is to be officially informal, Britain and the other three countries due to be outside monetary union fear that it will acquire power and supplant the "Ecofin", the decision-making council of ministers that runs the EU's economic and monetary affairs.

als said was a tough line, Mr Brown warned EU ministers that doing business in the new council would breach the Maastricht treaty, which states that "economic policy is a matter of common interest". In remarks echoed by the Swedes and Danes, whose governments are also opting out of the euro launch in 1999, Mr Brown said the body would divide the EU between the "ins" and "outs".

French and German officials said they wanted to help Britain but rejected his suggestion that the new body was illegal. Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, said: "No one can prevent the euro countries from meeting on an informal basis." The "out" countries could have no say in the policy forum's discussions, Herr Waigel said. A French spokeswoman said: "Britain is

paying the price for its years of delay in EU affairs."

The Government was determined not to yield in its first big quarrel with the EU because it fears being sidelined from key economic decisions and because exclusion would banter its claims to be "setting the pace" in Europe. For the first time since the election, the atmosphere in the Brussels EU council building resembled the old one of "Britain against the rest".

Adding to the tension was a noisy demonstration outside the building by about five thousand demonstrators from the transport and retail industry protesting against the EU decision to abolish sales of duty-free goods to travellers crossing internal EU frontiers from June 1999.

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France's beloved jazz violinist dies at 89

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli died in a Paris hospital yesterday aged 89.

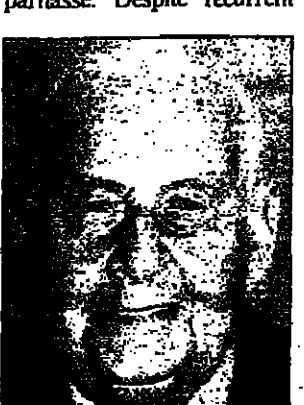
A self-taught musical virtuoso, Grappelli was born in Paris in 1908 and began his career playing the violin around the nightclubs of Montmartre and Montparnasse. Despite recurrent

heart problems and an operation to fit a pacemaker in 1991, he continued to perform, wearing his trademark floral print shirts, well into his 80s.

In 1934, Grappelli founded the Hot Club de France with the Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, and he went on to perform with many of the greatest names in jazz, including Fats Waller and Duke Ellington.

Grappelli's family said he had died after a hernia operation in Paris last week.

Lord Menthin, who also collaborated with Grappelli, led tributes from the world of music. He said Grappelli seemed to come from an earlier age of innocence. "He was perhaps the most beloved violinist and brought more joy to people than anybody else that I can think of in the string world," he added.



Grappelli: self-taught

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Tweedledums save Harman from wrath of own party

About halfway through the Social Security Secretary's speech defending her welfare policies, observers noticed a curious verbal tic. Replying to critical interventions from her honourable friends on the Labour benches, Harriet Harman's pronunciation of "honourable" slipped — towards "horrible". The result was a hybrid addition to the slim dictionary of HarmanSpeak: "horrible".

Ms Harman's side are giving her an "orrible" time. It was left to the Tories yesterday to save her. They did so just by being there. They looked even more "orrible".

If the Principal Opposition had proposed their critical motion in one simple sentence, afterwards slipping silently from the Chamber, Harman would have been left to face her own party alone. She would have been torn apart. As it was, with the hated Tories baiting a Labour Social Security Secretary, government MPs held their noses and rallied to Ms Harman's cause.

For many, "not in front of the Tories" was the order of

the day. No issue could better have illustrated the Tories' problem.



Let us put it this way... Imagine a Tweedledum Government proposing the Slaughter of the Firstborn. The Opposing Tweedledees protest. But, before the Slaughter can begin, a General Election turns the tables. Now the Tweedledees are in government.

Reversing their original stance, the Tweedledees Government now propose the Slaughter. What should Tweedledums do? They rage on purpose. Such is the Tory problem. The cuts to lone-parent benefit which Harman proposes were originally a Conservative idea. The Tories are in the worst possible position from which to attack. Still, they attacked.

Iain Duncan Smith, Ms Harman's Shadow, made a reasoned, well-researched speech that failed. He was too clever by half. He could deploy every argument but the one that mattered: that the proposal was actually wrong. There is an ungovernable edge to Duncan Smith's style, so Labour MPs (Vauxhall's Kate Hoey dressed unaccountably as a Christmas cracker) were able to forgive Harman.

Reaching for the identical note with which each was furnished by government whips (packed with killer phrases like "What did the Tories do?" and "What would the Tories do?") Harman's Honourable Friends sprang to her aid. A few of 'Arman's "orrible friends were less kind.

Duncan Smith accused most Labour backbenchers of acting "as an air-raid shelter" for their Secretary of State. She certainly needed it. She unwittingly safeguards her future by being so reliably inadequate at the dispatch box that delicacy, and a reluctance to bore by repetition, prompts us to drop our pencils and avert our eyes. During her speech, two young women in white T-shirts started screaming something that sounded like "scab" (or "scum") from the Strangers' Gallery.

Tax on parking at work planned to reduce car use

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FREE workplace parking is to be ministers' main target in curbing car use by increasing the cost of motoring.

Ministers are preparing to shelve plans to introduce electronic charging for driving in cities, arguing that the technology is unproven. Instead, plans to reduce car dependency in congested areas are more likely to focus on a permit system under which drivers would buy a disc allowing city-centre travel at peak times.

However, the prospect of charging companies for providing free parking now looks to be the most favoured option among anti-congestion plans to be unveiled in a transport White Paper next year. Ministers believe that taxing companies, rather than individ-

uals, is likely to be the most effective first option, although more radical measures could follow.

Workplace parking is thought to represent up to 60 per cent of town-centre parking space; government research suggests that halving it could reduce congestion by up to 20 per cent.

There are estimated to be at least five million free car-parking spaces provided by companies across Britain, and many more given free of charge to public-sector staff at councils, schools and hospitals.

A £100 annual charge could raise up to £1 billion to pay for better public transport, advisers suggest. Research to be published next month by

Transport 2000, the pressure group, is expected to spell out the benefits of a parking tax as one of the most effective methods of curbing car use.

Ministers acknowledge that there are complications in defining numbers of parking spaces and admit there could be huge bureaucracy if the smallest companies were to be included. More than 1.7 million companies already pay up to £1,000 a year for each parking space through the uniform business rate, although few are aware of it.

The White Paper, to be published next spring, is intended to put pressure on employers to encourage staff to use public transport rather than private cars.

Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, yesterday underlined the Government's determination to reduce congestion, especially in London. "Good transport is good business. First-class transport is crucial if London is to maintain its position at the top of the league as a global business centre."

"If current transport projections are anything to go by the streets of the capital will eventually be gridlocked. That is why we must take decisive action to reduce car dependency now. We can all play a part in cutting congestion."

Train safety complaints

RAIL managers were criticised by government inspectors yesterday for trying to block safety improvements on cost grounds without considering the true risks to passengers.

Senior safety experts complained of a "lack of maturity" among some managers in the privatised rail industry and demanded that closer attention be paid to averting the risk of accidents. Several oper-

ators have been rebuked privately by inspectors for trying to oppose new safety measures or even reduce old ones.

One unnamed inter-city train operator tried to introduce old carriages without central locking doors despite evidence that the number of deaths on trains had been reduced substantially by automatic locking, the annual report by the Health and Safety Executive says.



Farmers angry at what they see as government inaction on their behalf descending on the port at Holyhead

Beefburger dumping 'a warm-up'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

FARMERS' leaders yesterday demanded an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister as militants threatened to mount further quayside blockades of cheap Irish beef imports.

Livestock farmers say that a demonstration at the docks at Holyhead, Anglesey, in which 40 tonnes of beef-burgers were tipped into the

sea, was just a "warm-up". Yesterday, as hundreds of packets of beefburgers lapped against the quayside, port authorities stepped up security in the face of an expected resumption of hostilities.

There are fears that a militant hardcore of farmers, who openly admire the direct action of their French counterparts, could resort to more aggressive tactics. They claim they are being robbed of their livelihoods by a combination of cheap imports and Government inaction.

Bob Parry, president of the Farmers' Union of Wales, wants to meet Tony Blair to tell him that farming is facing its greatest crisis since the Second World War. He insisted the union could not condone action such as throwing beefburgers into the sea.

However, he said, "Last night's events show that farmers have had enough and are prepared to take the law into their own hands. The situation facing British agriculture is dire. I feel that we as a farming industry must unite

on this matter and put our case directly to the Prime Minister."

"We have been pressing the case for increased aid to the industry for months. We have been warning about the dangers posed to our industry by a flood of cheap imports and the lack of aid to compensate for the strength of sterling. Yet the Government has failed to take action over our grievances."

The farmers' anger was brought to a head at the Gaerwen Smithfield market last Friday when prices for dairy cattle fell sharply to as little as 50p a kilo — lower than in the early 1980s and less than the low point of the BSE crisis. Farmers were heading home from market with unsold livestock.

A convoy of farm vehicles carrying around 400 farmers converged on Holyhead after a rowdy meeting at Gaerwen. They are angry at the Government's failure to take up the offer of European Commission cash to compensate farmers for the damaging effects of successive revaluations of the

green pound. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, condemned the farmers' action and told them it would not do their cause any good.

He told BBC Radio 4: "The idea, the suggestion, the inference that somehow there is a cheque sitting waiting in Brussels that I can go and bring back to British farmers cost free is simply not the case. In theory we could have compensation from Brussels but in practice for every £100 that comes from Brussels, £71 in the event has to be funded from UK public expenditure, by the British taxpayer."

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said yesterday that under no circumstances could he condone the actions of the protesters and warned it would do their cause no good. "We have every sympathy for the farmers themselves. They've had a very difficult decade," he told BBC Radio 5 Live. "We have no sympathy whatsoever for the actions they have taken. It will not influence me for one second."

Welsh farmers' protests are condemned by NFU

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS' leaders yesterday condemned militant protests by Welsh farmers, but warned the Government that further violence might be impossible to prevent because of mounting anger over plunging incomes.

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union for England and Wales, said he was "deeply saddened" by the protests, but likened them to the "letting of a cork out of a bottle" to release pent-up frustration.

"I do not think we should ever protest in this way," he said. "But I do very much hope that ministers will recognise

that this was a small group of people who could not contain themselves any longer and were reflecting anxiety elsewhere."

Sir David was speaking after Welsh farmers surrounded a lorry at Holyhead port on Sunday night and dumped its cargo of 150,000 frozen beefburgers into the sea. The burgers, imported from Ireland, had been destined for Tesco.

As justification for their anger, farmers seized on statistics released yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture showing that total income from farming has fallen by 37

per cent in real terms this year. The collapse in incomes is blamed mainly on the strength of the pound, which has made it more difficult for farmers to export and opened the door to cheap imports. Beef cattle prices fell last week to the lowest figure since the BSE crisis broke.

A strong pound has also reduced the sterling value of the guaranteed prices and other EU subsidies received by farmers. These are fixed in European currency units and then translated into national currencies.

Leading article, page 19

Wanted: second home for dome

By NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Millennium Dome could be moved from Greenwich to another part of the country after 2000, Peter Mandelson said yesterday as he answered claims that the £750 million project would prove a white elephant.

The Minister without Portfolio published an independent report which concluded that the project would prove of lasting benefit to the nation. He also invited bids from firms interested in acquiring the dome, which will be the largest cable and fabric

construction ever built, after it has hosted the Millennium celebrations.

Mr Mandelson, who will today be questioned about the dome by MPs on the culture, media, and sport select committee, suggested that the Government would recoup at least some of the £200 million of National Lottery cash invested in the project.

"I should like to take this early opportunity to invite those with a serious interest in the Dome's future to register their ideas," he added.

Irish minister regrets gaffe

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN BELFAST

DAVID ANDREWS, Ireland's foreign minister, expressed regret last night for a gaffe that shook Unionist confidence in the Stormont peace talks and provoked a Unionist call for his dismissal.

Mr Andrews said he wished he could "unsay" a weekend radio interview in which he called for a new North-South cross-border body with a secretariat and executive functions "not unlike a government". He admitted his words were inappropriate and promised not to repeat them. He

was speaking after a meeting with the Ulster Unionist Party and two loyalist parties that was described as "rough as hell". Unionists vehemently oppose any form of cross-border body that could be construed as an embryonic third government.

At Stormont yesterday, David Trimble, the UUP leader, asked who was talking for the Irish government and suggested Mr Andrews be replaced with "somebody sensible". The Alliance Party also called for his resignation.

SOMEONE'S PLANTED LANDMINES IN YOUR CROP. DO YOU STARVE OR RISK LIFE AND LIMB HARVESTING?

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30 minutes of updated global news coverage including financial headlines, sports, weather and feature highlights.

8.30pm
Q & A with Riz Khan
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9.00pm
The Hidden Assassins
An hour-long special about the atrocity of landmines and what's being done about them.

10.00pm
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For further information on the campaign against landmines, call the MC World Group on 01753 351 6075.

Judge so to rule th forgot evi

Six months' ja for golfer in breath-test plo

Tribunal serve to sacked TV ho

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Judge so slow to rule 'that he forgot evidence'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

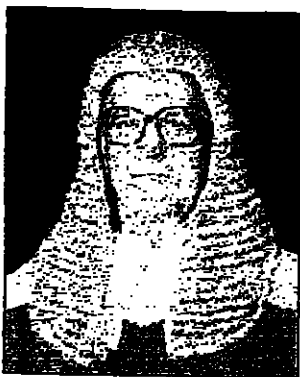
THE WHEELS of justice are notoriously slow. But they can almost stop completely when Mr Justice Harman, one of the country's most controversial High Court judges, turns the wheel.

The Court of Appeal was told yesterday that he sat on a case which began in 1994 but did not deliver judgment until April Fool's Day 1996 — one year and eight months after the case ended.

Those involved were so concerned at the amount of time the judge was ruminating on the case that they contemplated taking out an insurance policy in case he died before delivering judgment.

Yesterday the judge, who is known as "Harman the Horrible" by some, was accused by a leading QC of rendering his judgment unsustainable, among other things, by "inordinate, inexcusable, unacceptable and extraordinary" delay. Alan Boyle, QC, also accused Mr Justice Harman — famous for claiming in court that he did not know who Bruce Springsteen and Gazza were — of losing court documents and forgetting aspects of the case.

When he finally gave judgment, the Court of Appeal was told, he dismissed the action.



Harman took 20 months to deliver his judgment

which was for damages arising from allegations that accountants involved in the purchase of farm property in France had been in breach of their duty of care for ownership of property, value and availability of security.

The case began on June 7, 1994: legal argument ended on July 13. It was then that the wait for judgment — one of the longest on record — began.

Yesterday as Mr Boyle, for Rex Goose, a farmer of Spalding, Lincolnshire, made his claims in the Court of Appeal, Sir Jeremiah Harman, 67, an Old Etonian and ex-Coldstream Guardsman, was himself sitting as an additional appeal judge just three courts away.

Mr Boyle said that by the

time the judgment was given Sir Jeremiah had lost some of the documents. He added that it was to be inferred from the delay and his loss of documents, along with loss of some of his notes, that by the time he gave judgment he had forgotten essential facts and evidence. His recollection of the demeanour of witnesses and their credibility must also have faded, Mr Boyle argued.

When Mr Justice Harman originally reserved his judgment, a decision had been expected within months. But letters urging the judge to give judgment had proved of no avail, Mr Boyle told Lords Justices Peter Gibson, Brooke and Mummery.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, and head of the Chancery Division of the High Court, was also contacted and Mr Boyle said that at one stage, because the delay had dragged on so long, steps were being considered to take out life insurance on Mr Justice Harman to cover legal costs if he died before ruling.

Mr Boyle said that the appeal, expected to last several days, was an "arduous and difficult case" and stressed that delay was the central issue of the case.

The hearing continues — but no date, as yet, is fixed for judgment.

Morgans' lottery goldmine stuns poor pit village

By SIMON DE BRUNELLES

A FAMILY living on just under £150 a week in one of the most deprived communities in Britain yesterday celebrated winning £9,404,844 on the National Lottery.

John Morgan, 44, his wife, Kay, and the four other members of their family syndicate could probably not afford to buy the small former mining village of Rhigos, in the Cynon Valley, South Wales.

Their good fortune had only just begun to sink in when they attended a press conference hosted by Camelot, the National Lottery organisers, at a Cardiff hotel 36 hours after their win. As he sprayed the assembled press with champagne, Mr Morgan, who was made redundant when the pit at Rhigos closed three years ago, said: "It's going to be a great Christmas."

Until last Saturday, Mrs Morgan, the family breadwinner, was a seamstress making medical corsets and bringing home just over £100 a week. She said yesterday that although various benefits made up the family's income to £142, trying to raise a family on her pay was "hard".

Now the couple's share of the winnings is likely to earn them that in interest alone every six hours.



Magnificent Morgans, left to right: John, Kay, James, Mark with grandson Jake, Mary and Linda Leech

children and a son Jake, aged two, is already one of the lucky ones. Since the open cast pit closed, the unemployment rate in Rhigos for men has run at 28 per cent and 42 per cent for women, despite substantial investment in the area by the Welsh Development Agency.

According to the local authority, the Rhondda Cynon Tas Council, one in four homes in Rhigos — population 1,814 — is rented from the council or a housing association and a quarter of households have no car. Social life in the village revolves around the bar at the rugby club and the mobile burger van which visits on Saturday evenings.

Mr Morgan, a diabetic who suffers from heart trouble, said: "We don't want to move away to a plush home

in a place where nobody knows us. Our neighbours have been brilliant to us and you can't buy that sort of friendship."

The other members of the family who won £1,576,000 each are the Morgan's son Mark, 18, Mr Morgan's brother James, 38, his sister, Mary Morgan, 38, and his sister-in-law, Linda Leech, a mother of six.

Six months' jail for golfer in breath-test ploy

By RICHARD DUCE

A BUSINESSMAN and former leading amateur golfer was jailed last night after a ploy to avoid a drink-driving charge ended with him escaping from police custody at a hospital in the early morning.

John Povall, capped more than 50 times for Wales, tried to beat the law by feigning breathing problems and chest pains when he was stopped by police after drinking heavily at his own redundancy party, the Old Bailey was told.

He was taken to hospital complaining of pains and then fled in the early morning last May before giving himself up 18 hours later.

Jailing him for six months Judge Geoffrey Grigson told Povall, 58: "However drunk and confused you might have been it is plain you escaped from lawful custody and the motive was to escape the legal consequences of your drink-driving."

The court heard how police contacted Povall's wife Angela at their home in Hindhead, Surrey and she alerted them after he got in touch with her.

Graham Blower, for the prosecution, said Povall had to be "poured" on to a train to Haslemere after drinking heavily at a party to mark his redundancy as sales manager for a shipping firm in central London. He then climbed into his car and was stopped by a special constable as he drove the wrong way down a one-way street in Haslemere.

Povall failed a breath test and was told to sit in a police car when he began complaining of chest pains. A passing ambulance was flagged down but the crew "said straight away that he was feigning", Mr Blower said.

Povall, a former captain of

the Welsh amateur golf team who also represented Great Britain, was taken to the Royal Surrey Hospital under police supervision. But tests showed there was nothing wrong with him. Nurses were unable to take a blood sample, Mr Blower said.

"Thinking on his feet he knew that blood could have shown the level of alcohol in that blood. The defendant vomited at one stage and it contained nothing more than alcohol, which shows the level of his intoxication."

Povall was seen by a doctor running away at about 1am.

Karl Williams, for the defence, said the effect of Povall's redundancy on him was devastating. "The defendant was extremely upset that at his age there would be no future. He was shattered."

Povall and his wife have since moved to Stroud in Gloucestershire where he is thought to be earning £40,000 a year in a sales job.

No charge of drink-driving was brought because police were unable to take a second breath sample or a blood sample from him.



John Povall, capped 50 times for Wales

Teenager attacks Russian justice

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

ATEENAGE British girl, who faces six years in a labour camp if found guilty today of drugs trafficking, yesterday refused to co-operate with a Moscow court, saying that she no longer trusted Russian justice.

After 22 months in prison and two trials, Karen Henderson, 19, choked back tears of frustration yesterday on the last day of hearings, as she accused her jailers of "inhuman" treatment and the Russian legal system of "violating" her rights.

"I do not trust this court," the student, who was arrested at Moscow's Sheremetevo airport in February 1996 for carrying 10lb of cocaine concealed in a suitcase, told the three-judge panel.

Until yesterday, the teenager had shown few signs of emotion, even when she was sentenced last year to six years in a Russian labour camp. That trial was cancelled after it became clear that her court appointed interpreter was incompetent and had mistranslated key passages of evidence and testimony.

Despite pressure from Britain for the Russian authorities to improve the legal standards of the second trial, which should end today, with a verdict, the hearings have been plagued by setbacks.

Key witnesses have repeatedly refused to testify and none of the evidence, including the suitcase and the cocaine, was ever produced in court.

In addition, Ms Henderson's lawyers yesterday said that there was 165 grammes of the drug missing and argued that the evidence could no longer be considered valid.

Tribunal serves up £1,300 to sacked TV hotel waitress

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE drama continues at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, even without the constant presence of a BBC camera crew. Yesterday, out of sight of the millions who have been watching *Hotel*, the fly-on-the-wall documentary series about the Adelphi, a silver service waitress was awarded more than £1,000 in lost earnings from her employer by an industrial tribunal.

The hotel and its general manager, Eileen Downey, the star of the series for her bustling, authoritative manner, did not know the tribunal was being held.

Eileen Seiga was sacked in July, when the Adelphi was filmed coping with the arrival

from Manchester airport had been delayed. Staff were asked to work extra shifts to cope with the influx. Away from the cameras, Mrs Seiga, a waitress at the hotel for seven years, refused to work the extra shift. She was dismissed by Mrs Downey. Mrs Seiga, from Huyton, told the tribunal: "I was just told to get my coat and bags and that I wouldn't work there again."

In November, however, when Mrs Seiga went to Mrs Downey and told her she was going to an industrial tribunal, she was re-employed in her old job with the same wages. Sue Ashton, the lawyer for Britannia Hotels, owners of the Adelphi, said

derstood that this was the end of the matter, that Mrs Seiga would not be going to the industrial tribunal and so did not refer the relevant papers to us."

Mrs Seiga, however, wanted back pay for the period between July and November she was out of work. She told the tribunal: "I hoped to sort all this out without coming to a hearing but Mrs Downey isn't the sort of person you can approach very easily."

Britannia were unaware until yesterday afternoon that the morning tribunal was being held. The tribunal took Britannia's absence into consideration when it awarded Mrs Seiga back pay of

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"Gorgeous."

—What Video & TV, 6/97, B. Fox

"...innovations galore..."

—Mobile Computing, 12/96, M. Campanelli

"Damn fast."

—The Paperless Office, 2/97, N. Ballard

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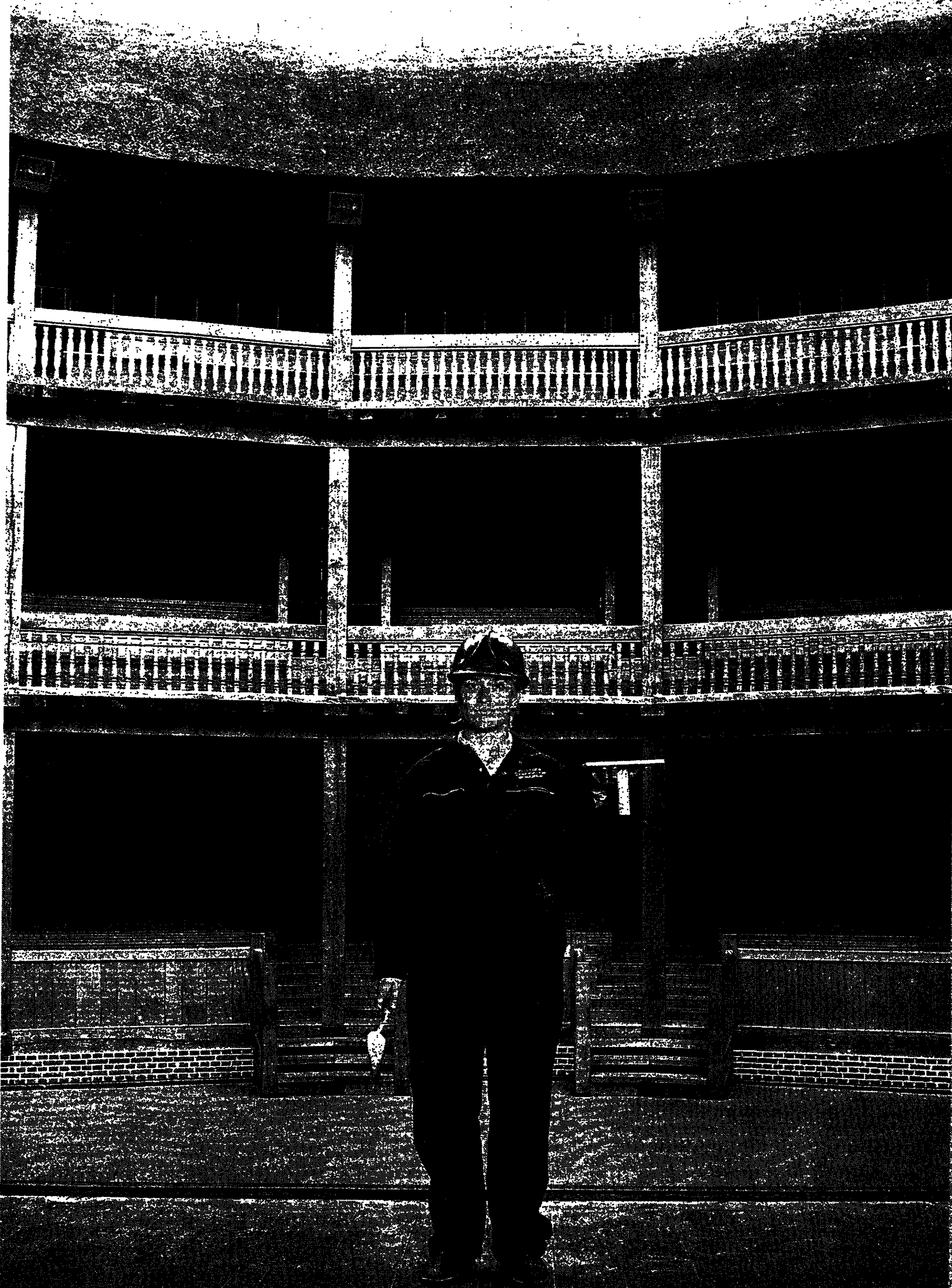
—Modern Living, 7/97, N. Lam



(Okay, so we made the last one up.)

PHILIPS

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by Clara Willett.

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Is it a bird



CJD test on
eye donor
six months
after grafts

Husband floor

A pro
is a p
is a p

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's bionic Blair



A new superhero: scenes from the first episode

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

HE HAS already been Bambi, Demon Eyes and Dan Blair. Now Tony Blair is B.L.A.I.R.I.: "Not so much a major leader, more a major weapon." In his first outing in the latest issue of the science fiction comic 2000 A.D. he solves the problem of 500,000 unemployed single parents by putting them to work in disused mines.

B.L.A.I.R.I.'s mind is controlled by an "artificial intelligence relay" called Doctor Spin and he has the strength of 50 men — or 25 John Prescotts, depending on how you look at it. His mission: to make

Britain a force to be reckoned with. In the first story about the new superhero, B.L.A.I.R.I. must rescue a mother and baby who are being held hostage at the bottom of a mine by unseated Tory MPs. Malcolm Rifkind takes a "Swakk!" in the mouth, David Mellor doubles over with a "Grooon!", Neil Hamilton gets a "Thokk!" for offering a fistful of fivers, and Edwina Currie is killed with one of B.L.A.I.R.I.'s death-dealing grins.

Having rescued the mother and child, B.L.A.I.R.I. asks why she was not at work. When told that no one employs a single parent, he has the idea of sending single parents down

the mines. As they set off, the new workers sing: "Hi-ho! Hi-ho! It's off to work we go. We'll work all day for rubbish pay. Thank you, Tony-O."

David Bishop, the editor of 2000 A.D. said yesterday: "We wanted to do an update of the Bionic Man — and Blair seemed perfect. Now that the official honeymoon period is over, we thought it would go down quite well."

Mr Blair is the first Prime Minister to feature in the comic. In 1977, the year the comic was launched, it planned to have Margaret Thatcher killed by alien invaders but the publishers forbade it. "No other PM has been suitable for us," Mr Bishop

said. "but Blair has that manic grin and that Bambi quality that makes you want to have a go." Mr Bishop sent a copy of the first cartoon to 10 Downing Street. He said: "We received a letter back saying that they were delighted with what we had done."

Next week's episode features Jack Straw as Judge Straw — after 2000 A.D.'s law-giver, Judge Dredd. He will introduce a "one strike and you're out" policy.

The Tories are not safe either. William Hague will be appearing with the numbers 666 tattooed on his head and Michael Howard and Ann Widdecombe will join forces to

summon up the spirit of a demonic taxpayer to take on B.L.A.I.R.I.

After B.L.A.I.R.I. has dealt with fatcats and sitcoms, the series will end at the end of this month with the entire population of Britain in jail.

The comic has sold 60 million copies since its introduction. Its record of more than 1,000 issues is matched among comics only by the *Beano* and the *Dandy*. It sells 50,000 copies weekly to readers addicted to Tharg the Mighty, Rogue Trooper, Slaine and Durham Red. Its most famous creation is Judge Dredd, the defender of Mega-City One, who was played in a film by Sylvester Stallone.

Divers drowned after basic safety mistakes

By STEPHEN FARRELL

TWO inexperienced scuba divers panicked and drowned at Britain's largest inland diving centre after making a series of basic safety mistakes, a coroner was told yesterday.

Glyn Beeson, 48, and Patrick Scanlon, 57, died in separate incidents at Stony Cove Inland Diving Centre near Hinckley, Leicestershire, while swimming with friends, their inquests were told.

Mr Beeson, from Cannock, Staffordshire, suddenly separated from his two companions while coming up from 20 metres on September 3 and rushed to the surface, shouting and waving.

George Atkins, a witness, told his inquest: "He was sitting there in a bath of bubbles and he seemed to be blown up like the Michelin Man. He was there for about 10 or 15 seconds then went back under."

Rescuers found the father of two unconscious on the bottom of the former granite quarry. He died the next day in hospital.

Mr Scanlon, from Leicester, suddenly ran out of air while ascending from 18 metres on October 4. His diving companion Adrian Stubbs told how he shot up "far too fast" then sank to the bottom, where he was found face-up.

James Symington, the Leicester Coroner, recorded verdicts of accidental death on both men after hearing that health and safety inspectors had cleared Stony Cove of all responsibility. He was told that both victims carried out their training elsewhere at schools run by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

Inspector Stephen Hanson, a diving expert with Leicestershire Police, criticised the association for allowing novices to dive together unsupervised after just four sessions with instructors.

Although only qualified to dive to 18m Mr Beeson had descended to 30m and had planned no decompression stops to eliminate nitrogen from the blood. He said that Mr Beeson's waving and shouting would have emptied air from his suit and lungs, causing him to sink rapidly.

Inspector Hanson said Mr Scanlon, who was on his first unsupervised dive since qualifying on a PADI course in Malta, had failed to acclimatise to the cold fresh water quarry and had panicked when his cylinder ran out.

The coroner will hear an inquest today into a third death at Stony Cove before deciding whether to make safety recommendations.

CJD test on eye donor six months after grafts

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TESTS confirming a woman eye donor was suffering from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were carried out two weeks ago, more than six months after three patients were given corneal implants taken from her.

Marion Hamilton died of lung cancer in a Stirlingshire hospice in February and her eyes were used in operations performed in March and April. It was only last month that tests were ordered on tissue from her brain to find out if the reason she became unsteady on her feet shortly before she died was that she was suffering from CJD.

Sam Galbraith, the Scottish Health Minister, said a comprehensive review of the case would be announced later this week and would report shortly. As a health minister, surgeon and a transplant recipient, he said he was "only too aware of the concerns" being raised over the eye

tissue transplants. He was satisfied there had been no question of information regarding the patient's infection with CJD being withheld before the transplants took place.

"I am determined that we get the full facts of this case so that we can learn from it for the future," Mr Galbraith said. The inquiry will concentrate initially on finding out why it took so long for tests to discover why Mrs Hamilton had suddenly become senile and unsteady, even though she was only 53.

Her eyes were removed shortly after her death, in keeping with her own wishes, and within 48 hours had been sent to an eye bank run by the UK Transplant Support Service Authority at the Royal Eye Infirmary in Manchester. After the hospital carried out routine tests to make sure that the corneal material was not infected with bacterial or fun-



Robert Johnson of the British Transplant Society, right, flanked by Andrew Tullo, explains the role of Manchester Royal Eye Hospital

gal matter, and that the donor was not a carrier of hepatitis B/C or of HIV, they were cleared for use. Two patients, one from Wolverhampton and the other from Liverpool, received corneal grafts; the other, from Manchester, received a sclera — the white of the eye.

Andrew Tullo, consultant eye surgeon at the hospital, said last night: "The surgeons who carried out the transplant procedures have been informed as to the identity of the patients and we understand that the patients in question have now been informed."

He said that the hospital had followed all the transplant

authority procedures for accepting corneal tissue for donation. "There is a list of conditions which, if apparent at death, would mean that the eyes would not be accepted for transplant. None of these conditions were reported to the hospital in this case."

He said it would be extreme-

ly difficult to speculate on the chances of one of the three patients contracting CJD as a result of the transplant. The only reported case of a patient developing CJD from a corneal transplant occurred in America in 1974, 18 months after the operation.

Officials have emphasised

that the variant of CJD diagnosed in Mrs Hamilton was the so-called "classic" strain, not the new variant that has been linked to BSE.

A helpline for patients who have had eye transplant operations using material from the bank at Manchester has been set up on 0161 276 8800.

Husband floored head Football coach wins sex bias case

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HEADMASTER was punched to the floor by the husband of a teacher at his school during an argument, a court was told yesterday.

David Bennett, head teacher of Sackville School, a comprehensive in East Grinstead, West Sussex, fell on his back after being struck by Trevor Unwin, a company director.

Unwin, 50, burst into his office and hit him in the chest

minutes after a fierce argument on the telephone. Lewes Crown Court heard. Unwin is appealing against his conviction for common assault for which he received a 12-month conditional discharge and was ordered to pay £300 costs.

Mr Bennett said that on September 2 Unwin attended a trustees meeting at his wife Elizabeth's request. She wanted him as an observer because she was waiting for an industrial tribunal ruling on her claim of sexual discrimination

over pay. Mr Bennett said he thought the issue was discussed "amicably" but received an aggressive telephone call from Unwin two hours later. "Regrettably I had to put the telephone down on him," he said. "He then burst into my room 15 minutes later."

"Unwin said he would ruin whatever career I had left. He then lunged forward and hit me on the left-hand side of my chest and I fell over backwards on the floor."

The hearing continues.



Hardwick: £5,000 win

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

A FOOTBALL coach who says she was denied the top qualification because she was a woman yesterday won a sex discrimination case against the Football Association.

Vanessa Hardwick, 32, a physical education teacher from Ickenham, northwest London, was also awarded £5,000 for injury to her feelings by an industrial tribunal

in North London. She said afterwards: "This is brilliant. It was worth all the hassle and losing half a stone in weight during the four-day hearing, which was very stressful. I'm in the middle of trying for the advanced coaching licence again with the final assessment next July. My aim is to coach in the United States."

Ms Hardwick had claimed that leaders of a two-week course at the Lilleshall national sports centre, Shropshire, made her feel out of

place in a "world run by men for men". She said: "The course was physically and emotionally demanding and not being one of the boys — not being in with the innuendoes — made it more intimidating and stressful. I suffered because I was assessed on my ability to play men's football in their style and not women's, which is vastly different, and that put me at a disadvantage."

A spokesman said the FA would appeal.

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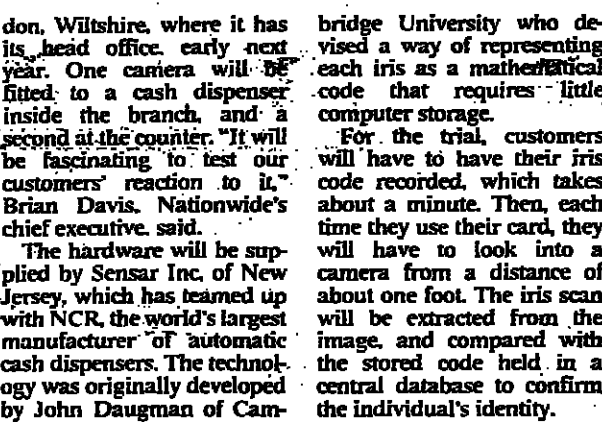
BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

In Britain, Glaxo Wellcome began tests under licence in 1992, with 6,500 patients taking troglitazone for a trial period, including 1,000 who were on it for more than a year. A very few showed slight liver problems, but on a different scale to those now starting to emerge in America and Japan. It was released for use here on October 1 under

The British Diabetic Association has a careline (0171 636 6112) to help any diabetics worried about what they should do.

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

Nationwide is to launch the six-month trial in Swin-



I was tired. I had nothing to give," one worker said.

All psychiatrists under 65 who left the NHS in 1995 and 1996 were contacted for the survey. Dr Kendell calculates that around 50 potentially avoidable premature retirements a year are now occurring so that, in the five-year period up to 1996, 250 consul-

commented how much they were enjoying working in this setting and several emphasized that the main attraction was not the financial rewards but the opportunity it gave them to spend their time treating patients."

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BY NIGEL HAWKES

The response to that challenge was measured by increases in heart rate and blood pressure. Results were then compared with measurements of the thickness of the carotid artery wall, using ultrasound. This is a method for assessing the degree to which the arteries are blocked — the more

An increase of 0.1mm of thickness has previously been associated with an 11 per cent increase in heart attack risk.

BY OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

Martin Glennie and George Stevenson of Southampton University will today report their findings to the British Society of Immunology Conference in Brighton. While previous efforts to use antibodies as a cancer treatment have not proved as successful as doctors hoped, the South-

They have developed one that recognizes a molecule found on the immune system's B-cells, which go wrong in a form of cancer called transplant lymphoma. The antibody triggers a change in the cells, either stopping them growing or inducing them to commit suicide. It destroys all the B-cells, both healthy and cancerous, but the healthy ones return later.

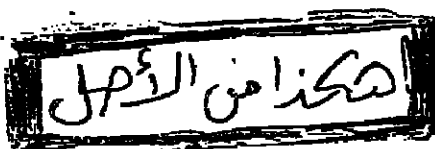
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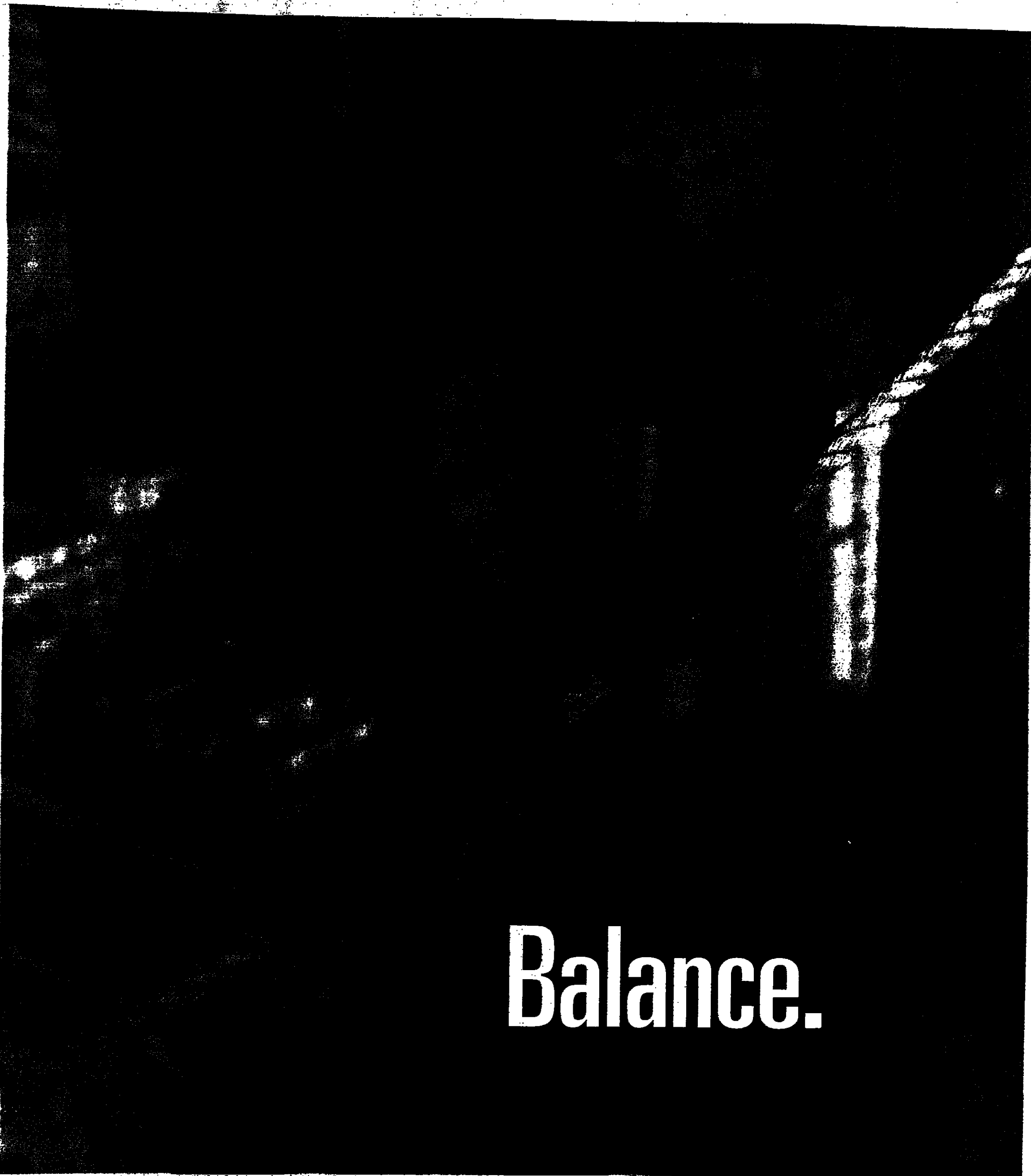
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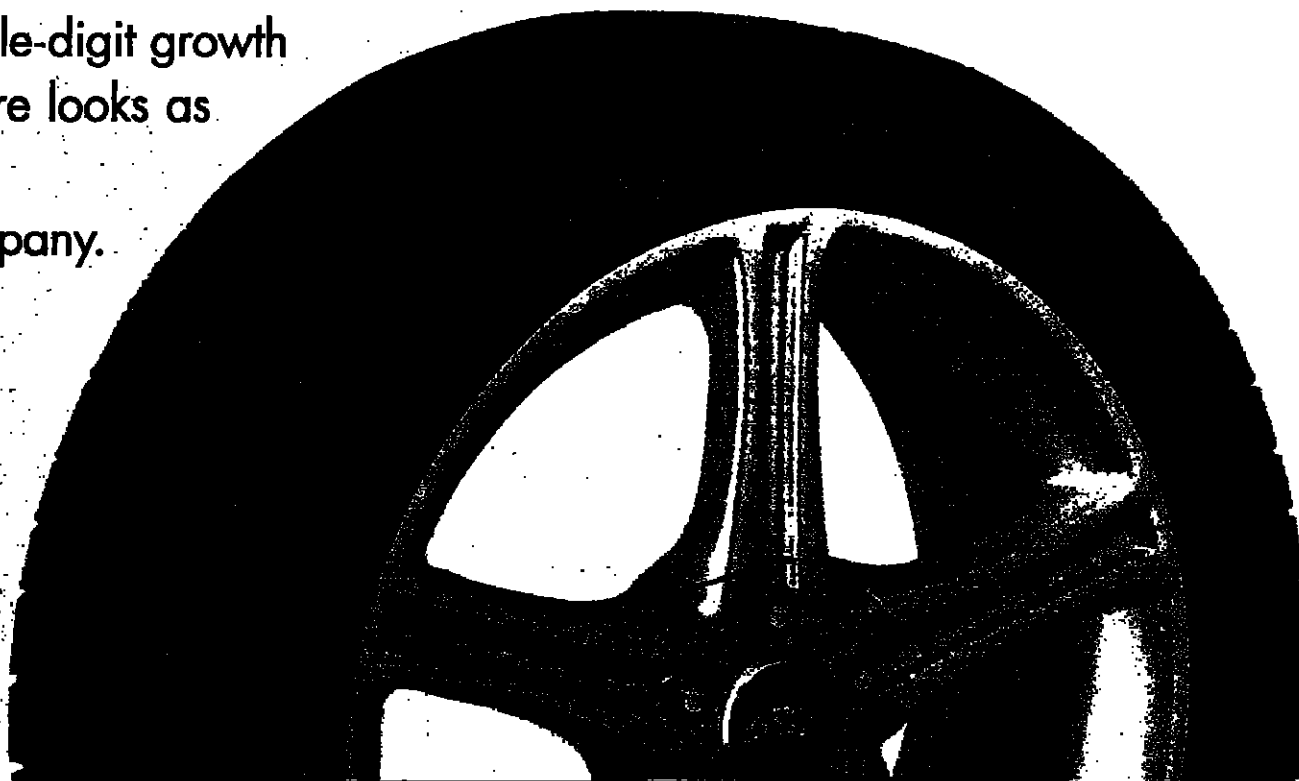
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Peer lobbies to protect press as concern grows over Lord Chancellor's handling of legislation

Wakeham warns of privacy law by the back door

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND FRANCES GIBB

A PRIVACY law will be introduced by default unless the Government amends its Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission will tell the Government tomorrow.

Lord Wakeham will appeal to Chris Smith, the Culture, Arts and Media Secretary, to hold urgent talks with ministers and representatives of the newspaper industry to ensure that the commission is exempted from the Bill.

The appeal to Mr Smith comes amid a feeling of growing exasperation over the handling of the legislation by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, who introduced the Bill in the House of Lords.

The Lord Chancellor had advised ministers that the commission would not fall into the category of a "public authority" under the Human Rights Act. On the basis of advice to the commission from David Pannick, QC, an expert in administrative law, he has admitted that he was wrong.

The Bill gives complainants the right to challenge the findings of public authorities in court. A complainant could

therefore challenge a decision by the PCC in court, which some newspaper commentators say amounts to putting the regulation of the press into the judicial domain. The commission fears subjecting its rulings to lengthy appeals in the courts because that would render it ineffective and signal the end of self-regulation.

“The message for the press is plain: strengthen self-regulation and strengthen the PCC.”

tion. “It would be a privacy law by the back door,” said one member last night.

Despite the Lord Chancellor's change of mind, the Government appeared yesterday to be standing firm. A Home Office spokesman said that the PCC had always been covered by the Bill, so no action was necessary. Lord

Lester of Herne Hill, QC, said it would be wrong — and possibly a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights — for an exception to be made for the PCC. Many other bodies, such as the Advertising Standards Authority and the Broadcasting Standards Commission, would then argue that they needed to be exempt. “That would be bad for free speech, because the Bill imposes on them a duty to have regard to freedom of information as well as to people's privacy,” he said.

Lord Irvine claimed yesterday that the inclusion of the PCC would place newspapers in a stronger position. “This is good news for the press, because the courts will regard the PCC as the primary body to provide effective protection to people who suffer from press abuses,” he said. “Provided, therefore, that self-regulation is strong and effective, the courts will not intervene with injunctions. The message for the press is plain: strengthen self-regulation and strengthen the PCC.”

Lord Irvine emphasised that the individual's right to privacy would be counterbalanced by the press's right to freedom



Lord Irvine and Cardinal Wolsey: the Lord Chancellor may live to regret comparing himself to Henry's adviser

of expression, also guaranteed by the Convention.

However, his comments alarmed some newspaper editors. Alan Rusbridger, Editor of the Guardian, said: “I always suspected that the intention was to use the ECHR [Convention] as a backdoor privacy law.” He added: “Either we should get a public interest defence or have a privacy Bill, but at the moment it is a muddle.” Lord

Wakeham, the PCC's chairman, declined to comment yesterday but a spokesman said: “This Bill has enormous ramifications.”

“The Lord Chancellor does not deal with an instance where someone goes straight to court without coming to the PCC first.”

Leading article, page 19



Cardinal's virtue as role model is doubtful

CARDINAL WOLSEY, who dominated the Government of Henry VIII, is not an ideal role model for a Labour Lord Chancellor.

While, like the current office holder, he wielded enormous power behind the scenes, he was eventually charged with having exceeded his authority and was arrested on charges of treason.

The son of an Ipswich butcher, Cardinal Wolsey amassed wealth said to be second only to the King's in his 14 years as Lord Chancellor. But he fell from favour in 1529 after failing to persuade the Pope to grant Henry an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

He was accused of having exceeded his authority and the following year he was arrested on charges of treason for corresponding with the French court. He died weeks later while on his way to face the King.

Blair's Wolsey is not so infallible after all

Andrew Pierce on the man who compares himself with the Tudor king's confidant

LORD IRVINE of Lairg's admission that he was wrong to think the Press Complaints Commission would be exempt from the Human Rights Bill has exposed a small but significant crack in the seemingly impenetrable armour of his authority.

Cabinet colleagues who have bridled at his unprecedented position of power and influence with the Prime Minister — likened by Lord Irvine himself to that of Cardinal Wolsey with Henry VIII — were none the less forced to admire his intellectual abilities.

But yesterday, ministers discovered for the first time, publicly at least, that their Lord Chancellor's legal credentials were fallible.

There are already reports of clashes behind the scenes between Lord Irvine and Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, who has said that European legislation would undermine press freedom and emasculate the Press Complaints Commission.

Lord Irvine pulled his legal weight and insisted it would not. But Mr Smith, who unlike Lord Irvine has had years of dealings with the media, was proved right.

Now that Lord Irvine has been seen to err, the slip will not be lost on Cabinet colleagues who have sparred with him and resented his all-powerful hold on co-ordination of government policy.

Through his unrivalled access to Tony Blair the Lord Chancellor is one of, if not the, most influential member of the Government, viewed by a Cabinet colleagues with a

mixture of admiration and dread. The Prime Minister is on the phone every day to Lord Irvine, who wields more power from the Woolsack than any of his contemporary predecessors, with membership of eight Cabinet committees and the chairmanship of three.

Lord Irvine, who has found the move from being head of chambers to running a large government department quite a shock, does not tolerate fools. David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who is widely expected to be the first casualty in a Cabinet reshuffle, was an early recipient of Lord Irvine's incisive manner.

Mr Clark had planned to publish a freedom of information White Paper before the summer recess. Lord Irvine, who chaired the relevant Cabinet committee, demanded more time to study its contents. He was not happy with the result, demolished Mr Clark in front of the rest of the committee, and the legislation was delayed for 12 months.

Observers were astonished by the ferocity of the diatribe. Mr Clark was badly shaken. Harriet Harman has also

been publicly rebuked by the Lord Chancellor for calling for more woman judges.

But even critics of his autocratic style concede that he is a supreme chairman of proceedings, with an ability to cut through argument and broker a compromise. He is at his desk before breakfast and rarely leaves before 7.30pm. Middle-ranking officials who have been subjected to his acerbic tongue recall the days when the gentler, more easy-going Lord Mackay of Clashfern ruled the roost under the last Government.

He has angered the legal profession, his erstwhile colleagues. He made a fortune from private practice, specialising in employment law, but attacked the inflated fees of barristers while being the only member of the Cabinet to take the recent pay rise in full.

Outside Cabinet, his error will be seized on by media representatives, who argue that press regulation should not be in the hands of an unelected Lord Chancellor and self-acknowledged chief adviser to the Prime Minister.

CORRECTIONS

□ Doris Lessing, the writer, has never owned a farm or any part of one, or any property, in Zimbabwe and Southern Rhodesia (report, November 29).

□ A report (November 27) misquoted Mr Jeremy Corbyn, MP, (Lab, Islington North) addressing a student demonstration. He should have been reported as saying “tax the rich”.



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مكتبة الأهل

Fees confusion is blamed for drop in teacher recruits

THE number of people applying to be secondary school teachers is dropping sharply despite a £1 million cinema advertising drive.

Confusion over the Government's introduction of £1,000 university tuition fees was blamed yesterday for a 12 per cent fall in applications. Mary Russell, of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers, said the message had not got through that the fee will not be charged for trainees on the Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) course. This information is missing from the Teacher Training Agency's cinema campaign.

Only 13,500 would-be teachers had applied by last Friday for the postgraduate course compared with 15,172 at the same time last year. The figures were disclosed days after the Government announced higher targets for recruitment in key subjects.

It wants 2,150 new English teachers, up on the previous Government's provisional target of 2,070. The mathematics target was set at 2,400, up on the provisional 2,270. However, the recruitment aim for modern languages was revised downwards from 2,910 to 2,500.

Dorian Jabri, a spokesman for the agency, said it was consulting on ways to clear up confusion. "We need to find a way of getting the message across. Our recent cinema and print advertising are generating a huge number of responses,"

Cinema adverts fail to halt slide

in applications for secondary school training, writes

David Charter

es but it is early days." Ms Russell said the improving economic climate may also be encouraging more students who had thought about teaching to try for better-paid jobs.

"We are hoping things will pick up. We won't start panicking until Christmas." In a further sign of the drop in recruits, English was recently added to the list of "shortage" subjects at secondary level, which includes mathematics, science and modern languages. "When subjects like English start having difficulty recruiting, we know there is something wrong somewhere," she said.

The one-year PGCE is taken by most secondary school teachers while the majority of primary teachers follow the four-year Bachelor of Education degree and will have to pay tuition fees every year. BEd applications are believed to be 8 per cent down on last year.

John Howson, an adviser to the agency, said the shortfall suggested that the recruitment

targets, issued last week, would be difficult to meet. "Ground lost in the autumn is almost never regained later in the academic year."

The agency said it was receiving 100 replies a week on response cards accompanying its cinema advertising. Newspaper advertising featuring the favourite teachers of several celebrities was bringing in between 70 and 100 telephone inquiries a week, it added. The recruitment campaign, costing £10 million over five years, was launched on October 14 under the slogan "No one forgets a good teacher".

The overall target for secondary school teachers was set last week at 19,100. Secondary teacher courses are currently 15 per cent undersubscribed while primary courses are over-subscribed by 8 per cent. For courses starting this autumn in secondary mathematics, there were 2,700 places but just 1,433 applicants.



Douglas jailed for libelling Churchill

Bosie's last carer asks for jail poem

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE woman who cared for Lord Alfred Douglas, Oscar Wilde's young lover, in his dying days is pressing the Home Office to hand over a prison notebook that contains the original version of his poem *In Excelsis*.

Sheila Colman, a West Sussex farmer, with her late husband, Edward, gave a home to Douglas, or Bosie as



Sheila Colman with Douglas's top hat. She cared for him at the end and gained copyright of his works

he was known, for the last six months of his life. Now in her seventies, she is his beneficiary, owns the copyright on all his work and wishes to add the manuscript to her collection of Bosie memorabilia.

Her attempt to gain possession of it coincided with the release of papers concerning Douglas, the son of the Marquess of Queensberry, last

week at the Public Record Office in Kew, southwest London. He was imprisoned for six months in 1923 for libelling Winston Churchill. The Home Office maintained that the poem *In Excelsis* partly repeated the libel and could not be released.

The original manuscript was not in the file at Kew, although there were copies.

The original is thought to be in a Home Office vault. Last night Mrs Colman said: "Bosie died a bankrupt and we had to get it annulled and pay his bankruptcy off so we could get the copyright of his works."

Douglas had thought the decision particularly unjust. Wilde had been allowed to take out from prison his

controversial prose work *De Profundis*. Douglas wrote to the Home Office: "Can it be that the prison authorities approve of the vulgar, unctuous patronage of Christ perpetrated by the degenerate Wilde and disapprove of the lofty religious sentiments clothed in majestic language of the deepest reverence by Alfred Douglas?"

£110m 'crucial for university labs'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S university laboratories urgently need a cash injection, the president of the Royal Society said last night.

Sir Aaron Klug urged the Government to follow the recommendations of the Dearing report and provide an extra £110 million for buildings and equipment, with corresponding sums in future years.

"This is a small percentage of the total government Budget but I think it is crucial for the future of the UK economy," Sir Aaron said. "I do not believe I am exaggerating in saying that this small sum could make a huge difference to the state of the science base as we face the millennium."

Sir Aaron, a Nobel Prize winner in 1982 and former Director of the Molecular

Biology Laboratory at Cambridge, said that underfunding over a number of years had led to worsening conditions for research workers.

Among neglected areas he mentioned building maintenance, laboratory development, core equipment for research and teaching, library facilities, computing and IT, and support from technicians and research officers.

Industry, especially the highly successful pharmaceutical sector, had shown growing concern that universities in Britain would not meet their future needs, he said. Sir Ron Dearing, in his report on higher education, had recommended additional funding. This was now urgent, Sir Aaron said.

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NORTEL **PAC**

Harman refuses to bend in benefit row

HARRIET HARMAN made clear yesterday the Government's determination to press ahead with cuts in benefits for single parents despite a growing backbench rebellion.

Facing both Tory and Labour critics during a Commons debate, the Social Security Secretary defended the decision to cut benefits by up to £11 a week by claiming that Labour had a "mandate to tackle social exclusion".

Two women demonstrators in the public gallery tried to interrupt her speech, shouting "scab" and telling Ms Harman: "You should be ashamed of yourself. Single mothers will never forgive you." The women, wearing T-shirts with the slogans: Single Mums - Self Defence, and All Mothers are Working Mothers, were bundled out of the gallery by Commons staff.

Ms Harman said voters had shown at the general election that they were no longer prepared to tolerate a divided society. The Government would rebuild a "one nation" society with policies to help single parents and others back into work.

"The key failure of the social policy in recent years has been the failure to differentiate between these two groups. That has resulted in a hundreds of thousands of people of working age being written off to a

Rebellion or not, the Government shows every sign of sticking to its plans for single parents, report

Jill Sherman and Polly Newton

life of dependence on benefit when the Government should have been helping them back to work."

Opening the debate, Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, accused Ms Harman of breaking Labour's pre-election promise not to cut single-parent benefit. He acknowledged that the Tories would have implemented the cuts had they remained in government, but said: "We haven't broken a pledge like the Labour Party."

Urging Ms Harman to "get a grip" on her department, he went on: "There is delay, vacillation and U-turns on policy they said they wouldn't implement."

But Ms Harman got an easier ride than expected by her own side. Few Labour MPs dared to put their heads above the parapet and criticise the minister in public. Many of those who have spoken out publicly did not even attend the debate.

Dennis Skinner, the left-wing MP for Bolsover, poured scepticism on the Government's Welfare to Work programme. He said there were many people who could not find work and many lone parents who did not want to work. "They want to look after their children and therefore should not be penalised because they take that honourable stance," he said.

Earlier the Prime Minister's spokesman denied speculation that the Government was preparing to delay the benefit cutbacks by six to 12 months to appease its critics.

Signs of a compromise surfaced over the weekend as more MPs spoke out publicly against the cuts. But yesterday Mr Blair's spokesman took a much tougher line. There would be no delay and no exemptions for single parents who did not find jobs, he said. "The fundamental decision is going ahead as envisaged."

The only small concession from Downing Street was an

agreement to evaluate the scheme once it was running to ensure that it was working effectively or whether it needed to be improved.

Downing Street sources tried to talk down the size of the Labour revolt, claiming that a maximum of twenty rebels would not vote with the Government when the Social Security Bill at its third reading on December 10.

But the rebels claimed that at least 50 MPs would abstain on the third reading and were hopeful that they could still secure concessions. One idea being floated is to ensure that any single parent that was unable to find a job on the Government's Welfare to Work package would be given the full lone parent benefit, backdated to April.

Under the Bill's proposals all new lone parent claimants will forgo special top-ups for child benefit and income support which existing claimants will still get. Instead they will get the same, lower, payment as married couples.

Yesterday Audrey Wise, Labour MP for Preston and one of the rebel leaders, accused Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman of a lack of compassion. "They're certainly not showing much care for poverty-stricken children, and actions speak louder than words," she said.



Working mother: Diane Abbott campaigning with her son, who is now six, during the 1992 general election

Cut splits select band of lone parents

By Nicholas Watt

LABOUR'S small band of single-parent MPs were divided yesterday over the Government's plans to cut benefits by up to £11 a week.

Diane Abbott, the left-winger who has combined her political career with raising a son aged six, censured the Government for penalising struggling parents. But other single-parent Labour MPs are

rallying to the Government's defence. They include Jane Kennedy (Liverpool Wavertree), a junior whip who has two teenage sons, and Judith Church (Dagenham), who has two sons.

Caroline Flint (Don Valley), whose mother was a lone parent, is also backing the Government. "The best form of welfare is work," she said yesterday.

Ms Abbott (Hackney North

and Stoke Newington) who returned to work at the Commons eight days after the birth of her son, James, called on the Government to delay the cuts at least until the New Deal system, which she supports, has been set up. "People do not know how hard it is until they have been a single parent," she said. Most single parents wanted to work, but they could not always do so.

The Government faced stronger condemnation from single-parent MPs on the Opposition benches. Jackie Ballard, 44 (Lib Dem, Taunton), who raised a daughter on her own after her marriage broke down, said: "The previous Government hounded lone parents and made them out to be feckless 16-year-olds who got pregnant. I am absolutely astounded what the Labour Government is doing."

No wonder Blair is loath to commit himself on voting reform

FOR Tony Blair, the review of the voting system established yesterday under Roy Jenkins is a means to an end, not an end in itself. The Prime Minister's main focus is on the long-term aim of creating a modern social democratic party and ensuring that the Centre-Left is as dominant in the next generation as the Right has been in the recent past. Everything else is secondary.

Mr Blair believes that his closer links with the Liberal Democrats are working well, though ministers are occasionally irritated by what they see as "hopelessly unrealistic" and inconsistent Lib Dem de-

mands on public spending. Mr Blair has an open mind about how relations with the Lib Dems will develop. This will determine decisions on electoral reform.

Meanwhile, the establishment of the Independent Commission on the voting system both fulfils a manifesto pledge and keeps the Lib Dems happy, while deferring the real decision. The terms of reference are carefully fudged, to please both Labour opponents and Lib Dem supporters of proportional representation. In a triumph of Sir Humphrey Appleby's drafting skills, the commission "shall ob-

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

serve the requirement for broad proportionality, the need for stable government, an extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constituencies". This rules out very little, except possibly an entirely proportional system, as in Israel.

Moreover, the commission "shall be free to consider and recommend any appropriate system or combi-

nation of systems". So it could come up with an alternative or preferential system in single-member constituencies with a top-up from party lists on a proportional basis.

The commission is sensibly small, at five, with men and women of business who will not test the patience of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead - Lord Alexander of Weedon, a leading Tory lawyer-businessman who supports constitutional reform; Lady Gould of Potternewton, a Labour peer; Sir John Chilcot, a retiring Permanent Secretary; and the political journalist David Lipsey. This group is

broadly pro-reform, though in a pragmatic, unobtrusive way.

The key is less what the commission recommends, than how the Blair Government responds. In the past Mr Blair has not been "persuaded" of the case for PR. Like most MPs, he stresses the constituency link and is wary of allowing a smaller party to have excessive influence. Some senior Blairites, like Peter Mandelson, back the alternative vote - though, if the will is there, there should be scope for a compromise on some hybrid system. The Government is committed to a referendum before the next

election on the choice between a new system and first-past-the-post. It would be very odd if the Cabinet did not make a recommendation. Since a referendum could probably not be held until late 1999 or 2000, any changes could almost certainly not be implemented, and perhaps not enacted, until after the next election since there would have to be legislation as well as a review of constituency boundaries. Such a prospect should keep most Lib Dems on board.

Any changes would have far-reaching implications for the future shape of politics. But for many

MPs, the key is what happens to them. While the adoption of just the alternative vote would not alter constituency links, any other system would either increase the size of the Commons or involve a cut in the number of single-member constituencies. But the Commons is already too large at 659. No wonder Mr Blair is not committing himself for the time being. But the fastidious Lord Jenkins would not have become involved without being assured that his efforts would not be wasted.

PETER RIDDELL

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مکان من الذم

New claret knocks Rothschild from top of wine list

A NEW league table of top clarets has bruised the reputations of some of the world's most renowned wines.

An American professor's recalculation of prices commanded by the top claret-producing châteaux of Bordeaux shows a complete newcomer shooting straight to the top of the rankings.

Orley Ashenfelter, who produces a wine newsletter called *Liquid Assets* from his office in Princeton, has reused the method employed to determine the 1855 classification of the wines of Médoc and Graves, the league table still officially recognised today.

The 1855 classification was drawn up by the Bordeaux Syndicate of Brokers and was based on the prices the wines fetched in the market place.

Mr Ashenfelter, who specialises in charting wine auction prices, first used computer analysis of sales figures to produce a new classification in 1988 but says he thought it was "high time" to recalculate his results.

In the latest issue of *Liquid Assets* he writes: "Much has changed in Bordeaux. Some

An American professor's study of auction prices shows changes

in Bordeaux, says Jane MacQuitty

châteaux that barely existed a decade ago have entered the ranking at the top. And other châteaux have slipped badly. Our new ranking provides a glimpse of a traditional wine-growing region in the midst of amazing changes.

To produce the new ranking, Mr Ashenfelter analysed more than 10,000 London auction transactions from May 1994 until last December, comparing prices of wines of the same vintage sold in the same month with the prices fetched by Chateau Lafite-Rothschild. Lafite was taken as the benchmark because it was classified as the top wine of all in Bordeaux in 1855.

Ashenfelter took into consideration only wines from vintages that were at least ten years old by the end of his study period. "We wanted the prices we used to reflect the quality of wine, not the quality of the chateau's public relations staff," he says.

The new ranking differs very much, not only from the 1855 classification but even from that Mr Ashenfelter produced in 1988. The top wine, Le Pin, appears for the first time, having become the most expensive wine in all Bordeaux though it has been produced only since 1979.

Mr Ashenfelter found that on average Le Pin's wines now sold at seven times the price commanded by Lafite, and almost twice as much as those of the previous holder of the title of "most expensive red wine in the world", Chateau Pétus. Le Pin's phenomenal success is almost entirely due to rarity value and the enthusiasm of buyers in the Far East. No more than 600 cases of Le Pin are made each year.

Another new entrant is Le Tertre-Roteboeuf, a small St Emilion property that enters the table at No 24, already commanding prices more than half those of Lafite.

Lafite itself has slipped badly both since 1855 when it was placed first among firsts, and since 1988 when it finished third. Now it can manage no better than eighth. In 1988 only 34 châteaux sold for as much as half the price of Lafite. Now that number has doubled.

Mr Ashenfelter writes: "A notable feature of our new ranking is the extraordinary prominence of the merlot grape in the wines that have moved higher in the Bordeaux hierarchy. The top three wines are all Pomerols, all made from merlot. Merlot makes big, fleshy, seductive wines, much easier for novice palates to appreciate.

Christie's latest auction prices for the top eight wines 1982 vintages have been: Le Pin £18,000 a case; Pétus £9,000; Lafite £7,800; Mouton-Rothschild £3,800; Cheval Blanc £3,800; Latour £3,200; Margaux £2,800; Lafite-Rothschild £2,800.



Grape pickers in the Graves area at the Chateau Haut Brion, which is included in Mr Ashenfelter's top ten

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council tax rise of 7% is expected

Householders face average council tax rises of 7 per cent and cuts in local authority services as a result of government spending limits for 1998-99. John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to announce today an easing of council tax capping measures and a reassessment of rating bands, making more valuable properties pay a higher tax. Councils say they will be short of more than £1 billion next year despite the extra £835 million allocated to education in the Budget.

Taxi driver killed

A woman taxi driver was found beaten to death after picking up a passenger in Galway. Eileen Costello O'Shaughnessy, 47, who has two adult children, was discovered in a remote lane with severe head injuries.

Loner Londoners

Londoners are the worst communicators in Britain, according to a survey by the mobile phone company Orange. Only 17 per cent are likely to react to a friendly gesture against a national average of 37.5 per cent.

Murder petition

The parents of Lee Harvey, who was stabbed to death a year ago by Tracie Andrews, his fiancée, have delivered a petition of 3,000 signatures to 10 Downing Street calling for the restoration of the death penalty for murder.

Laser amnesty

An amnesty allowing the safe disposal of laser pointers has been launched by police and trading standards officers on Merseyside after 43 incidents involving the pens in two weeks. It may be extended nationwide if successful.

Double blow

Graham Toon, a sacked Exeter airport worker, suffered twice at the hands of an appeals tribunal. One of the panel, Torbay council leader Ian Fenton, ran into his car on the way to County Hall, then he lost his appeal.

1987/88	Chateau: Official position, 1855
1 (0*)	Le Pin: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
2 (1)	Pétus: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
3 (5)	Lafite: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
4 (2)	Mouton-Rothschild: 1st growth Pomerol, new wine
5 (9)	Cheval Blanc: Premier Grand Cru, St Emilion
6 (4)	Latour: 1st growth Pomerol, new wine
7 (10)	Margaux: 1st growth Margaux, new wine
8 (8)	Lafite-Rothschild: 1st growth Pomerol, new wine
9 (3)	Le Mission-Haut Brion: 1st growth Pomerol, new wine
10 (6)	Haut Brion: 1st growth Graves, new wine
11 (11)	Assolac: Premier Grand Cru, St Emilion
12 (7)	Trochay: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
13 (26)	Evangile: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
14 (17)	Pichon Lalande: 2nd growth Pomerol, new wine
15 (14)	Cortis de Méry: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
16 (12)	Pauillac: 3rd growth Margaux, new wine
17 (19)	Lafite-Rothschild: 2nd growth Pomerol, new wine
18 (13)	Le Pin: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
19 (28)	Lynch Bages: 5th growth Pomerol, new wine
20 (25)	Les Forts de Latour: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
21 (23)	Le Cosme: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
22 (16)	Latour & Pomerol: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
23 (15)	Figeac: Premier Grand Cru, St Emilion
24 (0*)	Le Tertre-Roteboeuf: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine
25 (27)	Coe d'Arche: Unclassified Pomerol, new wine

SIEMENS

A cardigan, how lovely, no really, it's just what I wanted and paisley as well, how...unique.

Siemens
Technology for the future

US melted down gold of victims of the Holocaust

By TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL BINYON

AMERICA melted down the personal effects of Holocaust victims and returned the gold to European central banks seven years after the end of the Second World War, a conference opening in London will be told today.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is planning to release a series of unpublished documents to the conference of historians, including evidence that the United States Treasury melted down gold plates, buttons, coins and ornaments into gold bars.

Gold returned to European countries was thought previously to have consisted purely of monetary ingots stolen from central banks by the Nazis. But the Federal Reserve documents now establish that more than 40 bars created by the United States Assay Office in 1952 were made from the personal effects of individuals

— some of whom were presumably victims of the Holocaust.

The evidence is being used by Jewish groups and the American Government to insist that Holocaust survivors and their relatives receive \$54 million (£33.7 million) in gold which remains in the possession of the Tripartite Commission, the group set up by Britain, America and France after the Second World War to return Nazi plunder.

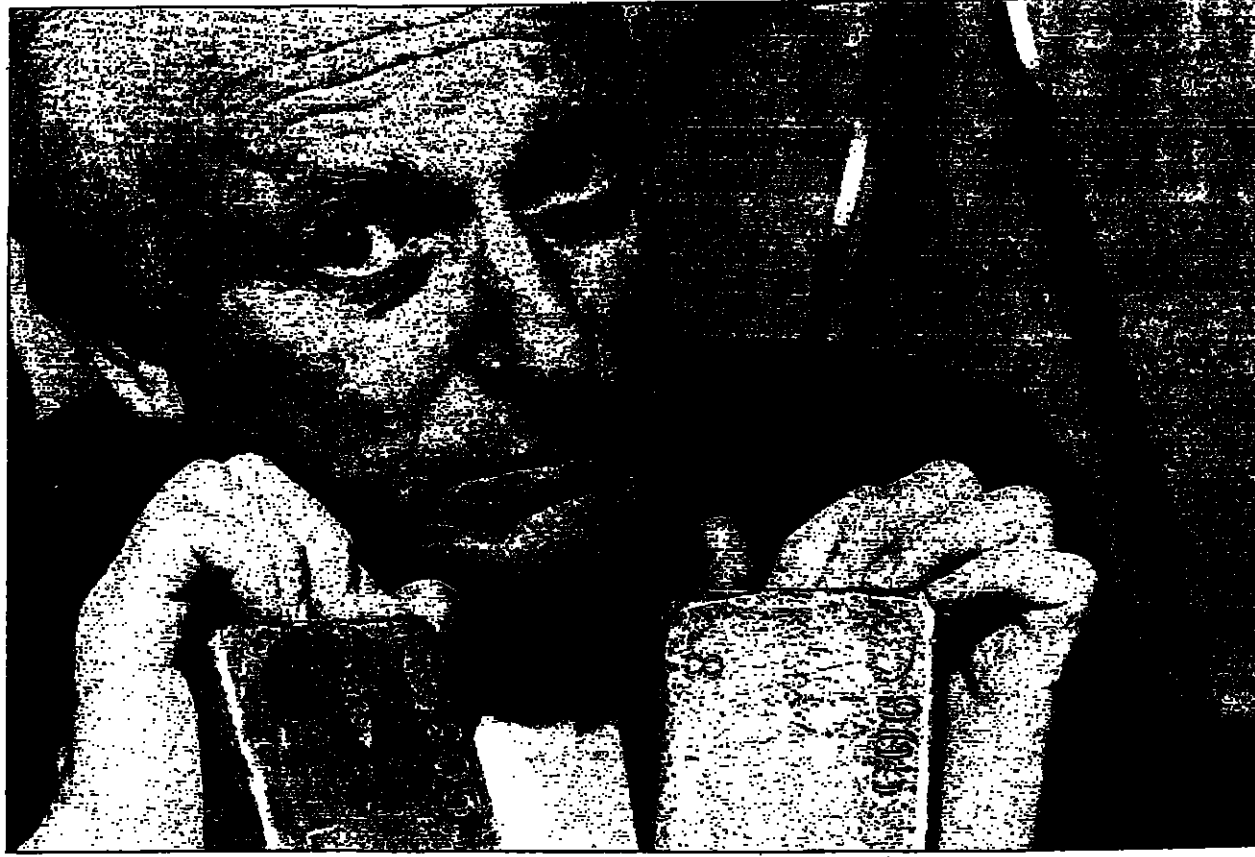
Switzerland will face demands in London today to hand over tens of billions of pounds to compensate victims of the Holocaust. The conference, which will be attended by delegates from 42 countries, will be told that 85 per cent of Nazi gold went directly to, or was laundered through, Switzerland. Much is still in bank vaults.

"As far as we are concerned,

we are pursuing justice," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. "Stolen goods should be returned to their rightful owners or their heirs." Other ethnic groups, including gypsies, will also be represented at the three-day conference, organised by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Lord Janner of Braunstone, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, described the event as a "moral miracle". All nations approached had agreed to send delegates, including the Vatican.

Allied governments are delighted at the resurfacing in Vienna of microfilm records of the Nazi Reichsbank's transactions. Senior participants in the conference said it would clarify how much gold taken from Holocaust victims and stored in a separate SS ac-



Lord Janner, of the Holocaust Educational Trust, with Nazi gold bars. He called the conference a "moral miracle"

count was sent to Switzerland and other neutral countries.

Another conference will be held next year, probably in the United States, to discuss the whereabouts of art and other treasures looted by the Nazis.

Lord Janner said he hoped there would be no unpleasantness as answers were sought. Delegates from other neutral countries, including Sweden, are also likely to face strong questioning about their roles

during the war. The host country, too, will not escape. British banks have been accused of holding assets belonging to Jews from enemy countries but a report on the subject will not be ready for

the conference. Responding to a question yesterday by an Austrian journalist who accused the British Government of theft, Lord Janner said: "I am very disappointed that the report is not out now."

Swiss had PoW cash deal with Japanese

From Peter Capella in Bern

IN A SECRET deal reached in 1944, Japan and Switzerland planned to divert Allied money, paid to Switzerland for the care of prisoners of war held by the Japanese, to pay off Tokyo's debts to Swiss businesses.

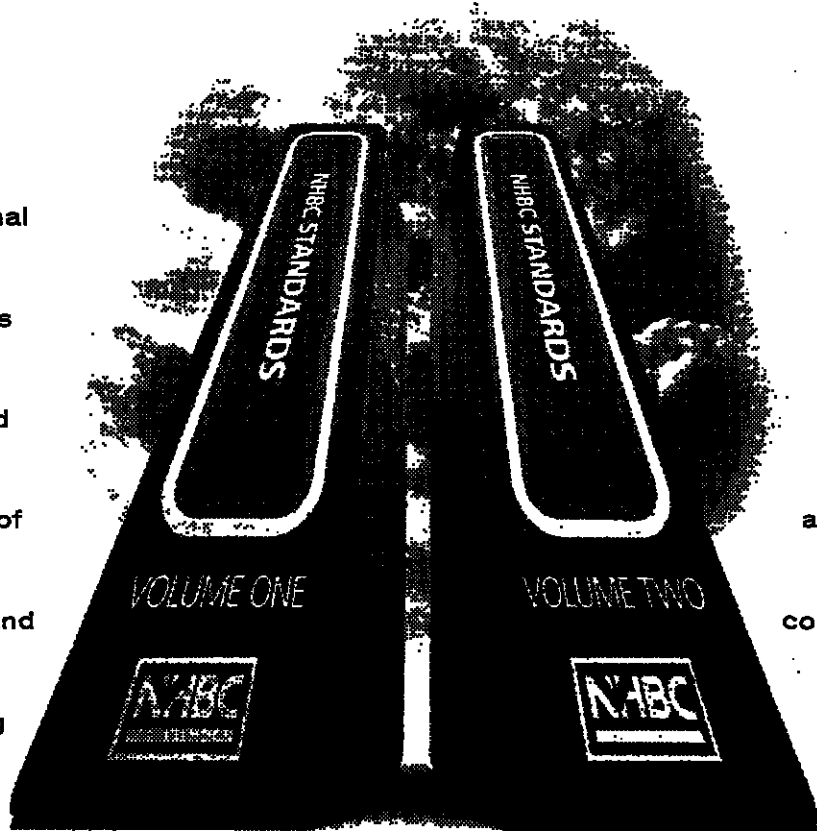
The deal came to light in a coded message written by Swiss officials in 1945 and will be among documents presented to the London conference on Nazi gold.

Nazi Germany took \$146 million in gold from Holocaust victims and other individuals, according to a Swiss study released yesterday. The study by international historians appointed by Bern also said Swiss commercial banks took in \$61.2 million of gold from Nazi Germany, three times as much as previously assumed. All amounts were in 1945 prices.

Six banks received the bullion in 1940 and 1941. More than two thirds were delivered to the Swiss Bank Corporation, now the third largest bank in the country.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Spain calls British 'bluff' on Gibraltar

Madrid: Spain is prepared to jeopardise Nato's reorganisation and expansion rather than give in to British demands that it drop military restrictions on Gibraltar (Giles Tremlett writes).

Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday that his country was ready to call Britain's bluff over its threat to veto a new Nato structure that would give Spain full membership. His insistence that Spain would stand its ground came as diplomats from both countries began last-minute talks to end a stalemate that threatens to spoil Nato's plans for change. A final agreement on Nato's new structure and its expansion is meant to be reached at a Nato foreign ministers' meeting on December 16.

Honour for hero of My Lai

New York: The American helicopter pilot who halted the 1968 My Lai massacre by US servicemen in the Vietnam War is to be honoured with the Soldier's Medal for his bravery after a campaign promoted by a BBC television documentary (James Bown writes). Hugh Thompson, then a warrant officer, landed at the site and plucked a Vietnamese child from a mass grave before heading back to base. He told commanders of the carnage and they ordered a ceasefire. Lieutenant William Calley, who led the massacre of suspected civilian collaborators, was convicted of 22 murders and served three years behind bars.

Basketball star earns \$78.3m

New York: Michael Jordan, right, the basketball star, who was paid an estimated \$78.3 million (£46.5 million) this year, is once again the world's richest athlete, according to *Forbes* magazine. Jordan, who has held that distinction for five of the past six years, is expected to earn \$31.3 million from the Chicago Bulls and \$47 million in commercial endorsements, *Forbes* said. Then come the boxers Evander Holyfield (\$54.3 million) and Oscar De La Hoya, with \$38 million. (AFP)



Pupil guns down classmates

West Paducah: A 14-year-old pupil opened fire in a Kentucky high school lobby as classmates took part in an informal prayer service. One pupil was killed and seven wounded, some critically. The boy was detained after the shooting at Heath High School. He had brought a handgun and ear plugs with him to school, Bill Bond, the principal, said. "He's a very intelligent young man. He had some minor problems, but he's never been suspended." The boy had told others last week that "something big was going to happen". (AFP)

Life for German police killer

Lübeck: Kay Diesner, an extreme rightwinger, was convicted here of murder and on two charges of attempted murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment in what was believed to be the first neo-Nazi killing of a German police officer. The police said that Diesner, 25, who called himself a freedom fighter and prisoner of war, confessed to shooting a left-wing bookshop owner and, later, opening fire on two policemen at a motorway service station. Officer Stephen Grage was killed. (AP)

Algerian village slaughter

Paris: Gunmen thought to be Muslim fundamentalists shot or hacked to death 29 villagers in the southwestern Algerian province of Saida at the weekend, Algerian newspapers reported. Sixty extremists stormed Hassi Labed village after blowing up a bridge to hinder government troops. They went on an orgy of slaughter as they set homes ablaze, and fled after abducting two girls and a woman. (Reuters)

Struggle over Onassis fortune

Lussy-sur-Morges: Thierry Roussel, fourth husband of the late Christina Onassis, says he fears for the well-being of his daughter Athina, left, heir to the \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) Onassis fortune. Disclosure of an alleged plot to kidnap the 12-year-old has thrown light on a bitter legal battle pitting M Roussel against Seelios Papadimitriou, president of the Onassis Foundation, and three other Greek trustees of Christina's will who are managing the estate until Athina reaches 18. (Reuters)

Water rationed in Manila

Manila: Water rationing has been introduced in the Philippines capital because of a drought caused by El Niño, the phenomenon which changes weather patterns by warming the Pacific (Abby Tan writes). The city's ten million people will have tap water supplies for only 12 hours a day. The restrictions, which are likely to last until next June, will be enforced by police patrols.

Banda to make opulent exit

Blantyre: Hastings Banda, the late President of Malawi, is to be buried in a £23,000 gold-plated coffin accompanied by his trademark walking stick and black Homburg. He will be buried at Capital Hill, in a new cemetery for presidents. As the founding President of Malawi, he will be the first occupant. (AFP)

الحكمان الذهل

Recycled swabs add to risks of Aids in India

WORLD Aids Day yesterday did not matter to the prosperous family occupying an uncommonly large house in the grubby Ansari Nagar neighbourhood of Delhi: like many other families, they were busy with the lucrative business of recycling hospital waste, including used needles that are packaged and sold as new.

Half the infectious waste from the city's 82 hospitals and 2,500 nursing homes is estimated to make its way to the marketplace. Even cotton wool used in surgery is washed and resold. The Ansari Nagar family owns four huts for the storage of discarded syringes, bottles, blood bags, gloves and bandages.

Much of the waste ends up in markets in Delhi, but most is sent by lorry to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, where hospital-waste mafias have cornered the business. They put it in new packing indistinguishable from the real thing, and it is sold to unsuspecting customers at full price.

A private environmental organisation, Vatavaran, estimates that the family in Ansari Nagar makes a profit of 80,000 rupees (£1,260) a

Reused medical waste is big business, Christopher Thomas writes

month, a huge income by local standards. Staff at Safdarjung Hospital, a government establishment in central Delhi, receive 18,000 rupees a month from the family for the supply of waste products. Police are paid 1,000 rupees a month to ignore the racket.

Dr Iqbal Malik, director of Vatavaran, said the business affected the health of all 3,000 families in Ansari Nagar. Children were picked by syringes when playing, skin diseases were common and there were frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases such as hepatitis B. Transactions in hospital waste are conducted openly despite a Supreme Court ruling in March 1996 that hospitals must properly dispose of waste. The Ansari Nagar family employs several people who wash used ban-

dages and cotton wool. Dr Malik said the workers had no hand, nose or mouth protection. The Government and the Central Pollution Control Board were either ignorant of the practice or did not care.

India has more Aids cases than any other country. A huge prostitution industry is mainly to blame, according to one estimate, half the prostitutes in Bombay are HIV-positive. The United Nations estimates three million people nationwide are infected.

The Indian Health Organisation, a voluntary group, believes infections in the country will roughly double every 18 months and within four years there will be 20 million to 50 million HIV-positive Indians — as many as 5 per cent of the population. The death toll could be 6,000 to 12,500 a day. "In many parts of the country, no one has told people they are vulnerable," Dr I. S. Gilada, the group's secretary-general, said. "Many rural people have never heard of Aids."

The Aids epidemic has little political priority and the severity of the crisis is not readily admitted by the Government. It admits to only 3,000 deaths from Aids, despite an unofficial figure of more than



Prostitutes and health workers on a World Aids Day march in the red-light district of Delhi yesterday to call for better medical facilities

125,000. Much of the money given by international donors for HIV education has gone unspent. India is shocked at its new status as the Aids capital of the world: It has always assumed HIV was an afflict-

tion of the sexually liberal West, but it underestimated how many men use prostitutes. Even with prostitutes, the use of condoms is extremely rare, despite their being given away free. With low

literacy, few television sets and patchy medical facilities, India has one of the world's lowest awareness levels of Aids.

□ Candlelit vigil: Aids awareness campaigners were hold-

ing a candlelit vigil in London last night, including a special tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, for her efforts to highlight the plight of sufferers.

□ In China, Aids activists arrived in Beijing yesterday

after a week spreading a "safe sex" message along the railways. In South Africa, the Government launched a campaign to combat discrimination against Aids sufferers and HIV-positive people. (Reuters)

Generation X takes the credit and runs

FROM BRONWEN MADDOCK IN WASHINGTON

GENERATION X has discovered credit cards — and has no shame in filing for bankruptcy to avoid paying the bills, credit card companies have found to their horror in the run-up to Christmas.

The phenomenon of "young deadbeats" — people in their twenties or early thirties who refuse to pay up — is growing explosively, provoking the credit industry into a public relations drive in an attempt to urge values such as prudence and shame on their young customers.

It may be too late, according to a Wall Street Journal survey. After years of be-

ing targeted by credit card firms, receiving application forms through the post or seeing them pinned to college notice boards, "X-ers" are having their revenge.

The Federal Reserve reports that the average debt for people under 35 rose by 32 per cent between 1992 and 1995, outstripping the growth in debt for older people. The average level of credit card debt was \$1,500 (£890) or, if student loans and mortgages are included, \$15,200. Much of the debt comes from impulsive purchases, such as holidays, mountain bikes and cars.

Credit card companies report that their younger customers are displaying more ingenuity in evading payment. Many

have become canny enough not to let any single debt exceed a few hundred dollars, discouraging creditors from pursuing them to court.

According to a study by Visa, more are choosing bankruptcy as a way out. Last year it found that 8.7 per cent of those filing for bankruptcy were under 25. A few years ago, the level was 1 per cent.

Financial experts, spurred by losses as well as criticism in the Senate of their marketing tactics, are battling to change these habits. But it may be hard. One lawyer in Easton, Maryland, complains that his young clients list the unused spending room on their credit cards when asked to draw up an assets statement.

Tensions rise in Pakistan

Islamabad: Rolls of barbed wire and police in riot gear surrounded the Pakistan Supreme Court yesterday, guarding against more violence in an intensifying political feud between Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and Sajjad Ali Shah, the Chief Justice. General Jehangir Karamat, the army Chief of Staff, met President Leghari as fears grew that the military would intervene and seize control. (AP)

Leading article, page 19

White farmers' last harvest

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Zimbabwe Government yesterday announced it expected to begin ordering white farmers listed under President Mugabe's planned mass expropriation to leave their farms next August.

In the first public statement by the Government since the gazetting last week of about 1,500 farms for "compulsory acquisition", Kumbirai Kangai, the Lands Minister, said that until whites had formally

been deprived of their farms, "we expect them to till the land". He added: "We will give them the opportunity to harvest. In August we will have completed the final process and we will start re-allocating."

Mr Kangai said the law gave farmers the right to appeal. Observers, however, say the Government now needs only to state that it needs the farm to justify its expropriation and that this removes all possible grounds for objection. David Hasluck, director of

the Commercial Farmers Union, whose 4,500 members stand to lose 12.4 million acres, said: "I have never heard of this one before."

□ Golfer's regret: Mark McNulty, the prominent Zimbabwean golfer, told 3,000 spectators at the Zimbabwe Open that he had been "saddened" to learn that his family's farm in the Centenary district had been listed. "It makes it very difficult to come back to a country where my birthright has been taken away," he said.

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Fifty years of peace fail to dispel fears among Germany's neighbours

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERMANY'S dominant position in continental Europe is still evoking fears among its neighbours and partners, according to opinion surveys and books that agonise over relations with the Germans. The anxiety about the Germans is remarkable not only because it lingers on more than 50 years after the Second World War but also because the political classes of all

European Union states share broadly similar goals.

Yet a survey conducted by the Clingendael Institute for International Relations, based in The Hague, found that Dutch schoolchildren ranked Germany last in the European sympathy list and considered it as a country "addicted to war". Germans were described as domineering, arrogant, unfriendly and unsociable.

The poll sampled 1,211 pupils, aged between 14 and 16, at 13 Dutch

schools. When the institute carried out similar studies in 1993 and 1995 there was outrage in Germany and self-questioning in The Netherlands about the negative imagery.

The latest survey shows that, if anything, Germany has lost ground since the earlier sampling. Thus 62 per cent of the Dutch children believe Germany to be a democratic country, compared with 72 per cent in 1995. Two years ago only 18 per cent of Dutch children thought there was a big

gap between rich and poor in Germany: now 27 per cent think there is a gulf.

Similar tones are being struck in other European Union states, including Britain, Denmark, France and Austria. Research commissioned by the Conservative Party revealed this week that hostility towards Germany fuels much of the public opposition to a European single currency. The antipathy towards Germany was most evident among the over-45-year-olds,

but younger people also expressed worries. "We would end up being ruled by Germans", was a typical response from six focus groups.

Measuring antipathy is notoriously difficult. An analysis of the changing attitude of the French press towards Germany, however, found that even sober financial newspapers have been describing the Germans as arrogant and complaining about their neighbour's desire to "exercise hegemony over Europe". Wolfgang Proissl,

writing in *Die Zeit* about French attitudes, believes the rawer tone comes from the weakening of Helmut Kohl and the stumbling progress of the Germany economy.

Danish resentments about Germany have been surfacing in politics, where the anti-German Danish People's Party recently picked up about 10 per cent of the vote in local elections, and in the bookshops where sociological and literary works have started to question the relationship with

Germany. Bertel Haarder, a political scientist, tries to get to the bottom of *Tyskerhad* — hatred of Germans. In a fast-selling book, he traces this antipathy to repressed memories of Danish wartime collaboration with the Nazis: the profitable supply of meat to the Wehrmacht and the 5,500 Danish volunteers for the Waffen SS. History books emphasise Danish heroism in saving thousands of Jews, and play down the wartime fraternisation.

Israelis rebuff Albright with settlement plan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government yesterday snubbed an already disaffected Washington by granting permission for the building of homes for 900 more Jewish families in the occupied West Bank.

The go-ahead for such a large expansion of the settlement of Alfei Menashe is seen as a public rejection of the repeated call for a "time-out" in settlement building issued by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

The scheme was made public after growing tensions in the West Bank led last weekend to the worst Arab-Israeli violence for more than six months. One hardline Cabinet member, Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister, said that the decision to expand settlements had been an integral part of Sunday's vote to sanction an unspecified troop withdrawal from the West Bank.

"In any case, and this can be seen in paragraph five of the Cabinet decision, there will be no time-out on settlement," said Ms Livnat.

The clause she referred to states: "The Cabinet will take the necessary steps for the continued existence and strengthening of West Bank settlements." The plan to go

head with the settlement at Alfei Menashe was revealed by Shlomo Katon, head of the Jewish district council in the occupied area, who told Israel radio that the 900 homes would be built on a hill within the settlement, in addition to 300 other new housing units in the same development approved by the Government three weeks ago.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has repeatedly insisted that no halt will be called to the

Netanyahu's office raided

Jerusalem: The office of Binyamin Netanyahu was at the centre of a new scandal yesterday as police officers pursued investigations into alleged fraud and forgery connected with an organisation to help immigrants (Christopher Walker writes). Israel TV reported that documents from the office had been seized two weeks ago. Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the office, resigned last month amid reports he was being investigated, allegedly for not repaying a loan from an immigrant group.

"natural expansion" of existing settlements. This is one reason why President Clinton has ostentatiously refused to find time for a meeting with him, while at the same time seeing King Hussein of Jordan and Shimon Peres, the former Israeli Prime Minister.

Yesterday's announcement came as the Palestine Liberation Organisation officially rejected the conditional troop withdrawal offered by Mr Netanyahu, and left-wing opponents in the Knesset tabled two no-confidence motions in reaction to it.

"The Israeli Government's decision is an attempt to bypass the signed agreements to change terms of reference of the deals and thus to scrap the peace process," said Tayeb Abdel-Rahin, an official who speaks on behalf of Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader. "It is also aimed at aborting international moves, especially those of the United States and Europe, and throwing dust in our eyes."

The offer was also rejected by Egypt. "What we heard is an Israeli decision that will not push the peace process forward but rather will create more complications," Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said.



Henry Ford takes his son Edsel, his successor, for a ride in a Model F Ford in Detroit in 1904. Top left is Henry Ford II, who was in charge from 1945 to 1980, and below, William Clay Ford Jr, who is expected to take control of the company his great-grandfather founded

Ford poised to put family back into the driving seat

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE Ford Motor Company is ready to hand the firm back to a member of the Ford family after a break of almost two decades. According to *Time* magazine, William Clay Ford Jr will take charge of the company his great-

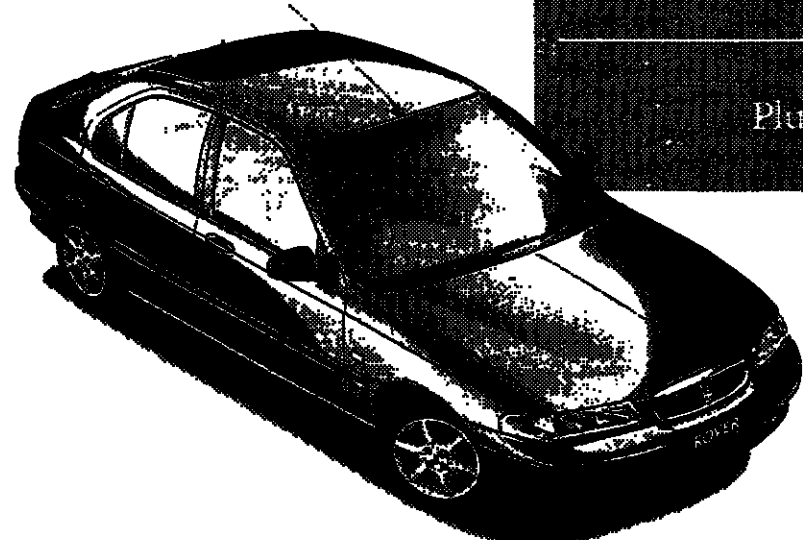
grandfather founded when the present chairman retires at the end of 1999. The company emphasised that no formal decision had yet been taken.

"Bill Jr", 40, runs the family's Detroit Lions football team and chairs Ford's finance committee. He will reportedly share responsibility for the car-maker with Jacques Nasser, now

president of automotive operations. The Fords control about 40 per cent of the company's stock and William Ford Jr will be the fourth generation to serve in the top job.

Henry Ford ran the company from its creation in 1903 until 1918, to be succeeded by Edsel Ford, who served until 1943, and then his grandson

Henry Ford II, who held the post from 1945 to 1980. William Ford Jr holds degrees from Princeton University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is known as a American Civil War buff who has helped to make Ford more aware of the environmental impact of car-making.



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مکانم الاجل

The best school in Britain?

Birmingham's Grove School is in an area of high unemployment and crime, yet every pupil thrives. Moira Petty reports

An air of industrious calm hangs over the classroom as, having read the story of Rapunzel, the children compose letters to the Wicked Witch. "You best go away from here, Witch," inscribes one child in a laborious hand, tongue protruding as he warms to his theme.

Previously, these little paragons of virtue had taxed the patience and resources of primary schools all over Birmingham with their complex emotional and behavioural problems. But they have been happily absorbed into the Excluded Unit at the city's Grove Primary School whose own pupils, responding to the principle that each child has unique talents which must be recognised by all, have no need of this special provision.

If the least able are imbued with a sense of purpose and achievement, the top layer of academically gifted pupils at the Grove are encouraged to fly beyond the traditional confines of primary schooling.

Ten per cent of 9, 10 and 11-year-olds are creamed off for fast-track tuition in mathematics and English. The mixed age group also tackles creative writing classes, philosophy and nuclear physics, the latter consisting of modules selected from first-year undergraduate courses by visiting tutor Dr Ranjit Sondhi. Last summer eight pupils, aged 10 and 11, sat their GCSE maths exam, all successfully, and the trend is set to continue.

Yet Grove School, situated in Handsworth, an area of high unemployment, crime and the focus of inner-city rioting in the Seventies, would seem to have the odds stacked against it. Free school meals, an indicator of social need, are taken by up to 75 per cent of pupils, while 80 per cent speak English as a second language, often arriving as three-year-olds speaking only their mother tongue.

The immediate area is said to be unsafe for pedestrians at night and teachers have been mugged on their way home. Every door and window of the 20-year-old building, which houses the older children, is protected with metal shutters and the flat roof is girded with forbidding looking metal bars.

Surveying the steel panels that guard the information technology equipment, Pamela Bailey, the acting head, says lightly: "We just accept it." The ethos of the school is to turn the negative into the positive. Children who speak Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati or another tongue at home have had those "pathways of learning opened and may find it easier to learn a second or third language," reasons Ms Bailey. She is as proud of the lowest-achieving as the high-flyers. "Aren't they lovely?" she enthuses time and again with genuine pride. "Grove



Yasmin Bi, 10, whose unemployed parents can see her going to university, has been thrilled to discover the "olden-day world" in classic texts such as *Treasure Island*

gives each child the chance to show what they can do."

Pupils are encouraged to direct the competitive instinct against themselves, each child working with their teachers to set their own targets. A minor improvement by a less capable child is greeted as ecstatically as a huge leap in understanding by a brighter pupil. A system of rewards, with badges, certificates, chocolate bars and spontaneous applause is in operation. Ms Bailey explains: "In the maths group, if a child has grasped something we've been working on, we'll stop and they can describe it to us and the others children will often clap."

High quality pastoral care is a priority. "We encourage the children to observe how the adults interact with each other. They're role models. Both children and staff work within a very positive culture. We have expectations. We respect each other and we have high

self-esteem about ourselves."

The pupils are used to visitors, replying with confidence and enthusiasm to questions rather than seeing it as a welcome distraction. Those touring the school have included foreign education ministers, delegations from the Department for Education, on a quest to improve standards and target-setting, and the BBC, which has filmed the series *Just One Chance*. Grove is cited in the *White Paper Excellence in Schools*.

Pupils of different social and racial backgrounds mix happily with each other and there is a spirit of genuine kindness. I watched as a three-year-old boy emerged from the soft playground, holding the door open for two even tinier tots and ushering them before him. One of the high-flyers, 11-year-old Sunny Mehta, spoke of the art competition in which the children nominate their winner. "It's not the best picture but the child who has tried hardest," he said sagely.

Sunny and some of his friends from the accelerated maths group demonstrated their skills for me. They computed a series of algebraic equations in their heads, numbers flashing through the air. When the figures became unwieldy, Ms Bailey orchestrated a group effort with each child holding part of the sum in their head before passing it on to the next. It was like a mathematical equivalent of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Ms Bailey describes the pace in the fast-track maths group as "frantic" with a high level of interaction, lots of debate and intervention. On brightly inked posters on the wall, teacher and pupils have listed their expectations of each other. The pupils' demands include: "To challenge us. To display our work. To respect all pupils."

The teacher's list includes: "Talk mathematically. Take risks in maths. Explain why we are doing things."

Asked why they were keen to take on the burden of extra homework and Saturday classes (which are open to pupils from other schools), the children came back with: "For the challenge." Rajendra Patel, 11, whose father is an unemployed welder, observed: "The teacher might have run out of work for us in the other group." Rajendra regularly tackles his older brother's A-level maths homework.

'Grove gives each child the chance to show what they can do'

Darnell Gardenas, 10, said of the maths: "We find out patterns and how they relate to each other." She recently read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens over a two-week period. Yasmin Bi, 10, whose unemployed parents "can see me going to university", has been thrilled to come across the "olden-day world" in her reading of classic texts such as *Treasure Island*.

Robail Afzal, 10, who speaks English with his four siblings and Urdu with his parents, can't wait for the next course in nuclear physics. It is extraordinary to hear these young children talking about periodic tables, neutrons and positrons with the ease other children discuss the plot of *Neighbours*. But Charlene Barrett, 10, was aghast at the suggestion that they were especially clever. "We're all clever at something," she said.

For other non-streamed subjects, pupils return to their 30-strong classes. There is no sense of shame if a fast-track student decides it is not for them. Julie Reid, a parent-governor and classroom assistant, said of her eight-year-old daughter Amy: "She found the pace too fast in the accelerated maths group. The other pupils welcomed her back to the main group."

The visionary behind the success of Grove School is Dr David Winkley, who was head, on and off, for nearly 25

years until last summer. He is director of the National Primary Centre, which he helped to found ten years ago, and which seeks to identify the best practice and sharpest teachers in primary education. He is an adviser to the Department for Education and has drawn up a blueprint for education in the 21st century.

When he joined the school, the previous head had suffered a heart attack after 18 months. Dr Winkley's first task was "keeping the kids in the classroom". His approach is underpinned by "a moral ethos" in which children "are encouraged to ask questions and to have confidence. We're not just doing something to them. They are part of the process."

He continues to teach a weekly philosophy class, in which the children analyse moral issues and develop their analytical skills. Dr Winkley has a knack of picking outstanding teachers: at least ten have gone on to take up headships elsewhere.

Ms Bailey is continuing the tripartite approach pioneered by Dr Winkley. The emphasis is on the breadth of the curriculum, the strength of pastoral care and a stringent monitoring system. The latter comprises a database on each child, using a specially adapted software system, and could be adopted by other schools. As well as continuous assessment, the children are tested

twice a year in English and once a term in maths.

The school deals in half levels, to encourage the weakest, and children then draw up "contracts" with the school, setting individual targets. "We ask them to reflect on what they've achieved," says Ms Bailey.

Monitoring begins on entry

after the child's 3rd birthday, and encompasses social and emotional development. Good communications with parents are important. A detailed grid of what each child is doing in each subject is sent home.

"A whole range of techniques are used to teach reading so that the child can find the right strategy for themselves. In maths, we present children with the big picture. I remember at school it wasn't always clear what we were doing and why."

"Our curriculum has no limit but we provide the whole range of opportunities, not just in the core academic subjects."

The school boasts a jazz dance teacher, a specialist music teacher and an artist who incorporates art history into her practical class. A whole day may be given over to art to intensify the experience. On the day we visited, one class was absorbed in life studies before going on to make papier maché models.

At half-term the school opened for a reading week for the 10 and 11-year-olds of year six. "There were places for 30 but all 90 wanted to come. They focused on accelerating their reading and learning techniques that adults use. They had a lovely week," says Ms Bailey.

The Grove is certain that its techniques can be copied. Last week Ruth O'Keeffe, the mother of a gifted child, was taken by *Just One Chance* to see the Grove with her daughter, Siobhan, 9, who attends St Pancras Primary School in Lewes, East Sussex. The school caters very well for her four-year-old twin sons, but there is no provision for high-flyers, she says. The head of St Pancras, Angela Ferns, is planning to visit the Grove, too. "I'm keeping an open mind," she says.

But Dr Winkley believes that schools like the Grove are the way forward. "I want to know how we can get more children moving faster," he says. "This is just the tip of the iceberg. Children can do so much more than we give them credit for. We haven't begun to tap their potential yet."

● *Just One Chance* is broadcast at 8pm, Thursdays, on BBC2. The Grove School Report will be broadcast on December 11

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Lowering pressure safely

Dr Thomas Stuttford begins a weekly look at new treatments

HIGH blood pressure is only comparatively rarely signalled by a ruddy complexion, fierce temper, headaches and nosebleeds. Equally, treatment for high blood pressure is more complex than losing weight, avoiding extra salt, pickles and other salty convenience foods.

Stopping smoking and only drinking alcohol moderately help, but usually drug therapy will be needed. There are now seven major groups of drugs that can lower blood pressure to safe levels.

Half the people reading this article who are suffering from high blood pressure will be unaware that they have it. Blood pressure rises insidiously, and its symptoms result from its complications after damage has been done. Overall, 12 per cent of men and 10 per cent of women have a raised blood pressure

that is undiagnosed, but by the age of 55, this figure rises to 25 per cent.

Only half of the people in whom it is correctly diagnosed will be prescribed treatment and in only half of these will the treatment recommended control the condition. Regular medical checks and more assiduous treatment will reduce deaths, even in 70 to 80-year-olds, from strokes, heart attacks, heart failure and kidney disease. Finding the right treatment can be time-consuming, as half of all the patients treated need to try two or more different therapeutic regimes before an acceptable and effective prescription can be agreed.

For many years the standard initial treatment after diagnosis of high blood pressure has been a combination of diuretics (water pills) and beta-blockers. The diuretic may cause impotence, weakness, cramps and fatigue.

Some beta-blockers cause tiredness, and can seriously exacerbate asthma and hay fever. Beta-blockers can reduce the amount of exercise someone can take and, in excessive doses, lower the heart rate to a point where the

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patient feels dizzy and may collapse. Beta-blockers have an adverse effect on cholesterol levels in the blood and on the control of diabetes in insulin-dependent diabetics. They restrict the peripheral circulation and are blamed for cold feet, noses and hands, and impotence.

IN THE 1980s, calcium channel blockers and ACE inhibitors were introduced, and both continue to have an important role. The ACE inhibitors, named because they block the angiotensin-converting enzyme, have fewer side-effects in general than beta-blockers but are often responsible for a persistent dry cough. More rarely, ACE inhibitors affect taste and smell, and more dangerously they occasionally cause severe angio-neurotic oedema - severe swelling of the face, lips and mouth.

Two or three years ago

angiotensin II antagonists became available. They do not cause a dry cough, angio-neurotic oedema, severe attacks of asthma, cold limbs or impotence. But they were not always as effective in reducing blood pressure. An updated version of the drug is now claimed to be more effective and even freer of side-effects.

Bristol Myers-Squibb, in conjunction with Sanofi, has produced a new angiotensin II drug, Aprovel (irbesartan), which is said to offer effective blood pressure reduction. Tests so far have shown that it has no more side-effects than an inert placebo. Astra, the Swedish pharmaceutical firm, is also to introduce a different angiotensin II which will have a similar side-effect profile to Aprovel.

The other notable new drug is Physiotens (moxonidine), a throwback to the centrally acting hypotensive agents. Like its predecessors, it is highly effective, but does not cause the extreme tiredness that blighted their use. It has the advantage of reducing the instance of left ventricular hypertrophy, heart failure and late-onset diabetes.

New comparatively side-effect-free treatment is available, there is no excuse for failing to have blood pressure regularly monitored and to take the prescribed treatment.

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Being a lady can be enormous fun



Raine, Countess of Champs...

Lady in distress: the Earl and Countess Spencer on their wedding day

Lady Stephens, the actress Patricia Quinn, became a lady after she married the late Robert Stephens, the distinguished Shakespearean actor, in January 1995, having been his partner for more than 20 years. She has followed the divorce hearing of Earl Spencer in South Africa with wry amusement — especially the suggestion by his girlfriend Josie Borain that Chantal Colpo, the Earl's former lover and tenacious supporter of his estranged wife, is bitter because she never got to wear a tiara. For her part, Colpo is alleged to have said that Spencer would never accept her as an English lady — because she was too "foreign". Can it be true? "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," Borain says. "Chantal did not get what she wanted. I don't know her, but she sounds like a tricky woman. I think she wanted the title of countess. But lots of women want that tiara."

As events have shown this week, English titles will always be sought after. Lady Stephens on the importance of being a lady

cer, too, in a surprising move Raine, Countess de Chambrun, this week reverted to the Spencer name. Reports suggest that her staff card at Harrods refers to her as Raine, Countess Spencer.

Lady Stephens says: "The subtext of the spat in South Africa over Earl Spencer's divorce is clear: these women who chase after aristocrats are not only interested in the glamour of having a title, but in estates, wealth and power. In short: the fabulous trappings of nobility. I never chased titles; I only ever chased actors."

"For me, becoming a lady made absolutely no material difference — I didn't get a bloody thing out of it. I still live in my tiny flat in Primrose Hill and earn my living as an actress."

Still, introducing yourself

as a lady is enormous fun. I can understand why 'Acid Raine' is keen to readopt the Spencer name. I assume she finds her current title too difficult to pronounce.

"The most memorable thing about becoming a lady is that the Prince of Wales, with whom my husband worked on a record, found it so amusing. You see, at the time of the ceremony, I was doing *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Duke of York theatre — dressing up in white stilettoes and fishnet stockings, most inappropriate for a true lady."

"After Robert was knighted, Prince Charles told him that it was all he could have wished for such a distinguished actor. Then he turned to me and said: 'What do you think about being a lady, Pat?' To which I replied: 'It's a gas, Sir.' He enjoyed that enormously. And so did my American fanclub,

the head of which introduced me at the annual Rocky Horror Show Convention in Los Angeles, thus: 'I've got great news, Patricia has married an English lord.' So I said: 'No, a knight of the realm.'"

"At first, I could not adapt to how ordinary people treated me. The first thing I did when Robert was knighted was to put my new title on my cheque books and passport. It's amazing the effect it has; you always get the best tables in restaurant (although you still have to pay the bill, alas), and you can almost see people curtsy when they meet you. There is this palpable change in attitude, and their voices drop to a deferential hush. It's awful, really. They do grovel."

"Robert asked me to marry him many times; but I never did because I liked the idea of being free to get out if things didn't work out. But as soon as I knew that he was going to become a knight, I said to myself: 'Well, let's bring a person to the bed right away [Stephens was convalescing after a liver transplant at the time of his knighthood in January 1995]. If that sounds cynical, all I can say is that I am. Our marriage was announced twice in *The Times* before we finally took the plunge."

lady and I like being Pat Quinn. Yet if people ever introduce me as Mrs Stephens, I get cross and say, no, Lady Stephens. It causes endless confusion."

In the last weeks of my husband's life, Dame Maggie Smith, his third wife, and I were always running up to the Royal Free Hospital to see him. One day, he was moved to another ward, and when Maggie and I went in to see him the nurses became terribly confused — nobody knew who was the wife, who was the Dame, who was the lady and who was coming or going. It was terribly funny."

"In truth, I think my title has led to some jealousy among my friends. Many people, I suspect, want to be Ladies themselves; or feel that their husbands should have

been knighted. It creates some bad feeling. As for those people who have no time for titles, I say 'Listen mate, when that sword comes down on your shoulder you love it.'"

"And then there is the question of what is politically correct. Let me explain. A friend of mine was knighted recently and his partner received nothing — because he's a man. But then how can he expect to be a lady?"

"I am troubled by the thought that I would lose my title if I ever remarried. But then Lady Buck is still running around using her title, and she seems to be having a grand time. If push came to shove and the choice was either to get married or keep my title, I would opt for the latter. I want to remain a lady."

"It is the name through which I carry the memory of my husband. I know I am Lady Stephens but I do miss my knight."

● Lady Stephens was talking to Jason Cowley

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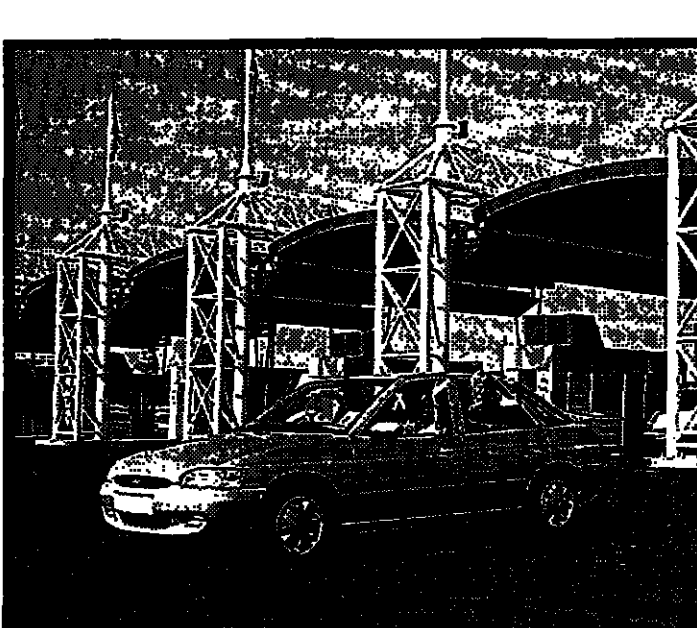
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From Star Wars in Leavesden to star draws in Islington. Daniel Rosenthal meets Ian McDiarmid

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Asian values and the price of consensus

Anatole Kaletsky on the crisis of authoritarian capitalism

Why should the British reader care about the domino collapse of the Thai, Malaysian, Indonesian, Chinese, Korean and Japanese economies, stock markets and banks? If you have invested money in a typical British life assurance or pension fund, the answer is clear. The experts who manage your money were so impressed by Asia's "tiger" economies that they undertook one of the costliest gambles in investment history.

Until two months ago, the average British pension fund had more money invested in tiny Hong Kong (GDP \$154 billion) than in the United States (GDP \$7,600 billion). As Asian markets have collapsed, while Wall Street has risen to new records almost daily, this gamble has produced predictably unpleasant results; but let us assume that you have been wiser than the so-called experts and kept your money safely under your mattress, or better still invested in British or American shares. Should you still care about the financial mayhem in the Far East?

There are two reasons why the answer is yes. The first is obvious. If Japan, China and Korea, which between them account for 20 per cent of world economic output, fall into a 1930s-style depression, every country in the world will feel the impact — in lost jobs and falling exports, though also in lower inflation and declining interest rates.

Whether there will in fact be an Asian depression now depends on Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister who has so far repeated all the mistakes of Herbert Hoover. Will he suddenly become a disciple of Franklin Roosevelt and Maynard Keynes?

If as now seems increasingly likely, Mr Hashimoto decides to pour public money into Japan's banks, stockbrokers and insurance companies, the Keynesian stimulus will be enormous — and will justify, at least temporarily, the sharp recovery in stock markets around the world in the past few days.

From the macroeconomic point of view, the unprecedented scale of Japan's financial meltdown has a silver lining. The very fact that so many of Japan's financial institutions are now effectively bankrupt implies that any government rescue, once it begins, will take on stupendous proportions. Mr Hashimoto will doubtless stress the caution with which he plans to proceed, but the truth will be very different from the public pronouncements (as is usual in Japan). Tens of trillions of yen will inevitably be pumped into the economy in a matter of months; it will become impossible to deny any precarious bank unlimited government support, since this would trigger an instant collapse.

Once the genie of government refinancing is let out of the bottle, Japan's net public debt could double in a year or two. Japan could thus be on the brink of the greatest

Keynesian demand stimulus of all time. As government borrowing soared, the Japanese economy would recover strongly. And a strengthening economy in Japan would more than make up for the continuing travails in the rest of Asia. In terms of GDP Japan is, after all, four times bigger than China and Korea combined.

But events in the East have another, less immediate but more profound, implication for the West. Investment managers have not been the only Westerners taken in by "Asian values". Politicians, economists and management experts have been haranguing workers, businessmen and voters in America and Europe that their prosperity was doomed unless the West learnt to emulate the values supposedly responsible for the economic miracles of the Far East — to work harder, to respect authority, to save more, to ignore short-term profits and to invest for the long term. Now it turns out that these were the very qualities responsible for Asia's economic collapse.

From Korea and Japan to Indonesia and the Philippines, the bankruptcies and scandals have several themes in common. First, industrialists and bankers invested far too much. They paid more attention to how much they were selling or producing than to how well or profitably they were doing these things.

Having invested too much, businessmen and governments ignored the danger signals of declining short-term profits, preferring to stick to their long-term ambitions of national development or global dominance. When the vanity of these long-term ambitions sucked Asian countries towards financial disaster, respect for authority silenced any sceptics who might have questioned the national consensus. Rampant political corruption could also be largely attributed to the lack of transparency and accountability in regimented societies where democracy, dissent and freedom of expression, even if formally permitted, have never been accepted as absolute rights.

To put it in a nutshell, authoritarian societies value consensus and hierarchical co-operation more highly than flexibility and individual freedom. The Asian model thus makes it easy to invest, to save and to stick to long-term objectives, but very hard to recognise mistakes and to change course when things start to go wrong.

In a fast-changing world rigid adherence to long-term objectives almost guarantees that huge mistakes will be made. It may not be true that free markets automatically produce free societies, as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher used to claim. What does seem increasingly clear is that when an ideologically censored, authoritarian society tries to run an open, liberal economy, something eventually has to give.



Labour's women MPs seemed to be at the heart of power when they were elected in May, but few have been prepared to challenge the Government

Blair's Babes in the wood

Parliament is still neglecting women and children — despite Labour's 101 female MPs

Eight months ago this week, new Labour's publicists assembled their 101 women MPs on the steps of Church House with the new Prime Minister. The photocall showed rank upon rank of eager, smart young women, with the few older warriors — Margaret Beckett, Glenda Jackson, Clare Short — looking like grim, wise old wildebeest amid the doe-eyed Bambis at the waterhole. The sun shone. The papers wrote headlines saying "Blair's babes".

Some of us cringed a bit, haunted by the shades of other men grinning in crowds of eager young women: Benny Hill, Frankie Howerd, Eric Morley — well, you get my drift. But never mind: these young parliamentarians, some of them even pregnant, formed a visible phalanx at the heart of power. Individual women might prove as ambitious and cynical as the lowest form of male MP, but sometimes they would have to look at one another, at their youth and their motherhood and their overstretched lives, and remember what they are and who elected them. If Messrs Blair and Brown ever got callous about the particular hardships of womanhood, we thought, they would have the Babes to reckon with.

So far, this theory has not come good. There have been tests of their mettle and willingness to argue — student tuition fees, child prisons — which by and large the babe benches have failed. This week sees another test: £400 million a year removed from the social security budget by cutting payments to single parents. This, the Government says, will be compensated for by subsidised childcare in after-school clubs. Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said at the weekend that it is more important to get people back to work than to pay them benefits. It is not insignificant that he — a man whose job is managing money — was pulled in to BBC's *On the Record* to replace Harriet Harman, a woman whose job is the basic welfare of the poorest. As symbolic moments go, it was worrying. Even more worrying is the fact that yesterday Ms Harman echoed him almost word for word; and that of the 80-odd Labour signatories of an early day motion against the benefit cut, only nine are female.

You get the sense of a safety mechanism disabled; a valuable check which for some reason — fear? uncertainty? dogged kamikaze loyal-

ty? — is not kicking in. The smoke alarm is silent, the dogs are not barking in the night. No roar of sisterly support met Ann Cryer's defiant "Stand together on this, send a message to women that we're on their side." Do Labour backbenchers forget that out in the country there are people who rely on them? Who did not vote exclusively for the glitzy leadership but for a genuine change in national priorities. For new thinking, not just new faces.

You need not be a spendthrift Leftie to be worried. Only a fool would deny that the welfare budget needs to be

progresses from being a full-time job to a part-time one. It never fails to enrage me that in arguing about support for "lone mothers", hardly anyone makes a distinction of age. Harriet Harman yesterday answered a question about mothers with pre-school children by spouting the same parrot stuff about childcare and job-counselling that would apply to a woman with a strapping great teenager. This is ridiculous.

Human infants are utterly dependent on close adult care, love, and playful stimulation. Without these things it is impossible to absorb

Libby Purves

education, social values or emotional intelligence. Intelligent mothers who choose to leave their children and work a full day take immense care to ensure that the first years of their children's lives are full of affection and playful education with the best childminder, nanny or granny that finances and circumstances can provide. Those who leave their babies in less than superb care are generally miserable about it. They know that those five years lay the foundation for all the rest. They know that unless they can provide an excellent substitute parent (which can be done, just) they ought to stay around themselves in the home, neighbourhood and playgroup so that like the loving mother bear in old woodcuts, they can gently lick and nuzzle their babies into full humanity.

They know that if they do this vital job well, they are bestowing a massive favour also on the child's eventual school, schoolmates, and society at large. Ask any reception teacher about the difference between well-tended five-year-olds and neglected, farouche ones. Yet policymakers fail to recognise that it is a job at all, let alone one deserving applause and support. All they care about is whether or not parents are "lone". If they are "lone" they must be made so poor that they are effectively chased out to work, leaving their infants in any old ramshackle care. Women are still

given to understand that government places absolutely no value on the creation of a baby's home unless that home happens to have a male earner in it. If your male earner has scarpered or died, tough. Off to work, girl! Baby? What baby?

Mothers of big schoolchildren are a different kettle of fish entirely. After-school and holiday clubs are useful to them (although I bet most would prefer more flexible hours or a proportion of properly paid homeworking). But by and large, they can go some distance towards paying their way economically. The older the children get, the more reasonable it is to ask single parents to look for paid work (or do voluntary service, perhaps with other people's children). Life will still be grey for many, rushing home from dull jobs to supervise the homework alone, and they might well prefer to stay put and draw benefits. But society can't afford to give everyone the life they would personally prefer. That isn't the deal.

If no clear distinction of age is made, the argument gets silly. Those who want benefits cut will paint a picture of idle, feckless women smoking and gossiping all day in wilful idleness. Those who want them increased show us pictures of mothers and toddlers. But parenthood is a continuum of gradually decreasing duties. I had hoped that the women in Parliament would ram home such pig-obvious truths to their party and make it understand that impoverished, neglected small children cost the nation more in the long run.

Why not take the line: "All mothers — married or not — who take competent full-time care of small children will be carefully looked after. Progressively, as children get older, we will demand that they contribute to their own support." Instead we get bombast and circular arguments and clumsy Meccano attempts at social engineering and silent, uncomfortable women MPs not sure which way to look.

And next April, as the newest generation of deserted mothers contemplate the reality of a tenner less in their purse and reluctantly look for somewhere to keep their babies alive all day on the cheap, we shall proudly begin to lay the foundations of children who will make teachers' lives hell in 2003, and fill the child prisons of 2010.

Brown's £10 billion tax bonus

Labour is milking business and savers, says John Redwood

Before the election, Labour said that it had no need to raise taxes beyond Conservative plans. With the single exception of the windfall tax to pay for its Welfare-to-Work programme, it was happy with the Conservative tax proposals.

These words were engraved on my memory as I read through the pre-Budget papers the Chancellor issued a few days ago. Last year at this juncture the Conservative Government announced its tax plans for 1997-98 (in the "Red Book"), and predicted that it would raise £282 billion in taxes. This was a cash figure, allowing for any price and wage changes likely to take place.

Now the Chancellor has revealed (in the "Green Book") the actual amount to be raised — and instead of being the predicted figure, it is £10 billion more. This too is a cash figure, for the same year.

What, then, has happened in the intervening 12 months, apart from the general election? It is true that the economy is doing even better than the Conservatives thought it would, and there is a first instalment from the windfall tax. There must be, nevertheless, much else besides to explain a tax leap of £10 billion in a single year.

The trend towards higher revenues continues next year, when the projections show an increase of £12.5 billion in Government receipts, compared with the figures offered by the Conservatives last November.

We are witnessing a big programme of tax rises, new taxes and accelerated payments, in an effort to collect substantial new revenues in a hurry. The latest example of this comes in the Chancellor's proposals for corporation tax. The headlines are dominated by an eye-catching and reassuring 1 per cent decline in the rate. But the reality is four years of higher corporation tax payments, because companies are required to pay five years' tax in four years. The corporate sector will, on average, be more than £15 billion worse off every year for the rest of this Parliament.

There are a number of new taxes or charges to be levied. Charges for the use of the radio airwaves are being pushed up — and new auction fees imposed on mobile telephone companies — to raise up to £1.5 billion. A tax is being placed on nuclear and renewable energy. The Government is thinking about placing a tax on sand and gravel extraction, and is considering new or higher taxes on oil exploration and development. Road haulage and the motorist have already seen some increases in duty and licence fees, and await more.

The biggest and most surprising tax so far has been the decision to tax savings income in pension funds. It is taking time for the impact of this to make itself felt. It may be a year before someone with a personal pension plan is told they are required to pay more. Company funds are valued periodically and the bad news is often delayed. The Prime Minister told us that as shares were going up, it was fine for the Government to take money out of our pension savings. He has not now been back to Parliament to tell us that since so many people have lost money in stock markets around the world through their pension funds, that the Government has changed its mind and will not raise these savings further.

The Chancellor repeatedly tells us that we need to encourage more savings and more investment to generate long-term stability. He is correct in that. Why, then, does his policy tax savings more heavily, and take much-needed cash away from businesses when they need it for new investment? Announcing the abolition of Tessa's and Peps months before telling us of their replacement has not helped saving either.

Parts of British business are now short of capacity. They need to retain the money paid to them by customers to spend on plant and equipment. Instead, they will have to pay more of it over to the Treasury, as the corporation tax, energy tax, telephone tax, pensions tax and many others fall to be paid. The utilities tax, too — the only one we were told about before the election — has to be found by business and results in less investment. Labour tried to measure voters before the election that it would not be a tax-and-spend administration. With the exception of the windfall tax, bringing in £26 billion in each of the first two years, it gave the impression of no new taxes.

So far it has proved to be not so much a tax-and-spend administration as a tax-and-tax administration. Business and individuals will feel the effects in their bank accounts in the months ahead. Soon it will be the turn of the councils to join in, with substantial council tax rises. The Government, meanwhile, should answer the question: why is it doing this, and how does it expect people to save and invest when the taxman is after their money?

People will become disappointed as they see this administration breaking its promise to keep taxes down. Starving councils of money so that they put up their taxes, while raising business bank accounts, still leaves the voter paying the bill.

The author is Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary.

Fallen towers

A VANQUISHED Tory MP has sold his country house hotel after having a number of county court judgments served against him. Warren Hawksley ran a Welsh hotel with his wife Evelyn, despite wrestling with a number of unpaid bills dating back to 1989. The news follows the public airing of difficulties suffered by Michael Dobbs, the Tory shaker and author, who is flogging his West Country farmhouse. Hawksley, a right-wing Eurosceptic, has now settled his debts, but the parliamentary salary that he received as a former MP ran out last weekend, and he has still not found a job.

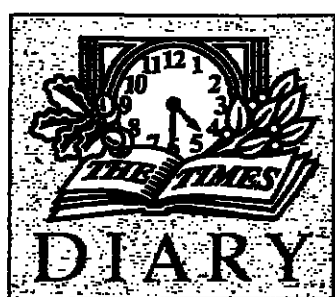
The Hawksleys bought Edderton Hall in Fforden, near Welshpool, in 1988 after the former MP had earlier lost a Midlands seat the year before. Although derelict, the couple spent a packet turning it into an eight-bedroom hotel. Mrs Hawksley received plaudits for her fine cooking. But now the Hawksleys have sold the place for a reported £200,000. Last year Mrs Hawksley talked of their financial difficulties and blamed their troubles on starting the business "in a recession and in a gastronomic wasteland" — which did little to increase her husband's popularity last May. Hawksley offers a different explanation. "We are selling because my wife had a breakdown running it and the doctor has ordered her to take a break." I wish them a change of fortune.

● THE problem with being classless. William Hague's accent intrigues Baroness Thatcher. Is it smart London or Yorkshire? "Well, it is the Welsh in him, you know, the Welsh," she says. Perhaps Ffion has had more influence than we assumed.

Sick note

PITY Peter Kilfoyle, responsible for John Major's Citizen's Charter. He rushed to his local hospital's A&E department after his son suffered a footballing accident. A nurse made an initial check but father and son had to wait for four hours for diagnosis. Kilfoyle has sent a grumbling letter. I trust his complaint will be dealt with as thoughtfully as everybody else's.

● A delegation from the PM's office arrived at the Commons last



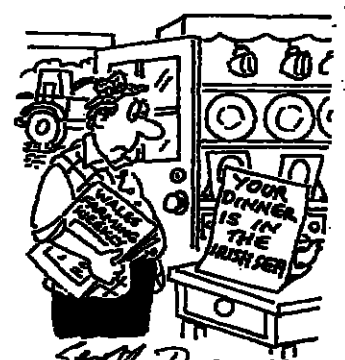
night to tell ambitious Labour types about life at the top. Sadly the party of government had found the simple act of booking a room too much to handle. The Institute of Printers refused to leave the double-booked committee room. Britain's future leaders were left snubbing out fags in the corridor.

Where's Blair?

HAS Parliament become an irritant to Tony Blair? The PM's voting record has been poor. MPs report they have seen him enter the lobbies only once since he seized No 10. During the same period, William Hague, who admittedly has had rather less to do, has voted 37 times. John Major as PM voted 19 times in the first six months after 1992. Margaret Thatcher is a fairer comparison. Yet she voted 38 times

in the first half year of her second administration with a vast majority. No 10 says the whips are happy with the PM's voting record, of course. Tories believe there's a reason: "When Labour's policies go wrong, Blair can say he never voted for them."

● THAT animal-loving MP Michael Foster knows what it feels like to be hunted. In his previous existence as a manager at Jaguar, the man who may yet ban jackdaws had to announce staff redundancies, including that of his own father. "Some of the workers decided to take it out on the messenger," he says. "For three days I had nails driven into my car tyres."



BUFFALO are the latest hazard for Eddie Grundy, above right. The Archers is to be ripped from congenial Ambridge and replanted in the wilds of Zambia. The African broadcasts will aid agricultural education — so instead of grumbling about milk quotas over a pint of warm ale in The Bull, farm gate debate will focus on elephant droppings and how to prevent your husband drinking too much Mosi (a dangerous local concoction).

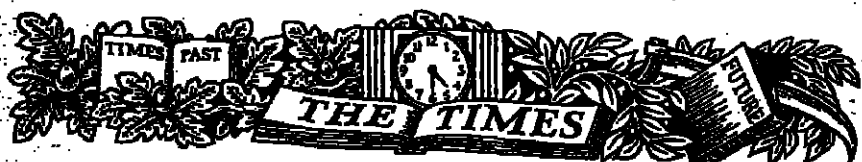
News that the English language programme is to be produced by the show's former producer Tim Coleman, and, alarmingly, is to be renamed *The Zulus*, worries followers. "How could it be the same?" asks Glensy Kinnoch, MEP, above. "They have a different set of references over there. Brian Archer wouldn't go down



well anywhere but Britain. Neil would be very interested to hear about this. He's been a paid-up member of the Eddie Grundy fan club for many years and is absolutely mortified about the way he's been treated by the police."

● More bad news for Earl Spencer. Cut-price cable channel Live TV is expanding into current affairs with his profile. "It will be a hard-hitting documentary with no weather in Norwegian," promises Live supreme Kelvin MacKenzie, former Editor of The Sun, essential reading for the earl. "I haven't got much interest in a failed NBC reporter," ventures MacKenzie. "I'm sure he will come out of this programme reeking of lavender."

JASPER GERARD



BROWNE OFF

A misdirected British tantrum over a Brussels talking-shop

The combination of wheedling, half-promises and threats deployed by Gordon Brown in Brussels yesterday was a wasteful use of Britain's political muscle in the European Union. His purpose was to secure for Britain a seat at the planned Euro-Council, an informal club to be set up next year for the finance ministers of those countries which join the first wave of EMU entrants.

Of all the EMU battles, this is the one that matters least. This club is supposed to be no more than a flexible forum for discussion, with no decision-making powers, and Germany, ever-mindful of protecting the independence of the future European central bank, wants to keep it that way. As a non-member of EMU, Britain could spare itself long hours of tedium if it were absent from future debates there about how EMU members are to untangle the knots that constrict their policy choices in far from convergent national circumstances.

Mr Brown insists that, although this club is supposed to be no more than a ministerial speaky, a British presence is vital. Otherwise, the Government claims, the club of up to 11 "ins" could operate as a cabal, stitching up agreements that, although not final, would then be presented to Ecofin, the full council of EU finance ministers, as *faits accomplis*. So they may, but Britain would not thereby be reduced to impotence.

The Chancellor would better have reserved his energies for the task of insisting on strict observance of the EU treaty provision that the economic affairs of the Union are a matter for all member states and that nothing must therefore undermine the legal authority of Ecofin. So long as the Government is brave enough to stand its ground and use its veto where necessary, Britain's vital interests can be protected inside or outside the new euro-club. Anything to do with taxation and fiscal policy remains a matter for unanimous Ecofin decision.

Instead, Mr Brown has made an embarrassing and counter-productive public display of this Government's desperation both to have and eat its cake in the European

Union. His undignified posture has succeeded mainly in enabling France and Germany to set aside their sharp disagreements about the role of the club and present a united front of indignation that Britain should presume to enjoy the "benefits and status" of EMU without courting any of its economic and political risks.

In response, Mr Brown has edged further and further from the balance he struck in the House of Commons. In the body-language he adopts when in Brussels, wait-and-see has become "just wait for me". By stressing how willing Britain is "in principle" to join, and that its partners should therefore regard it as a "pre-in" EMU country, not an "out", he gives at least the appearance of pre-empting the decision on whether or not to join, which the Government has promised to put to the entire country in a referendum.

The less fuss Britain makes about membership of this particular club, the easier it will be for Germany to resist French pressures to turn it into a powerful political counterweight to the European central bank. The more inclusive it is, the more Paris will argue that it should set the pace of discussion on matters such as tax, employment and exchange rate policy. The debate about this new club has, in fact, far less to do with economic decision-making than with political packaging. Its importance for France and Germany is that each wants to sell it to their electorates in different guise.

Mr Brown has made this affair a test of an equally political kind, a way of demonstrating that Labour has transformed Britain's standing in the EU and now plays as pivotal a role as Germany and France. Instead, he has revealed how much this Government has to learn about which European battles matter — and which it can win. It was a case for adapting Groucho Marx's dictum about not wanting to join any club that would admit him as a member. So long as Britain remains outside EMU, this informal debating shop need not concern it. To have said as much would have been a more mature and effective political approach.

ISLAMABAD ON THE BRINK

When the military may be the least worst option

Pakistan's stuttering democracy again looks in peril, and yet again the country's elected leaders are to blame. The bitter quarrel between Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and Sajjad Ali Shah, the Chief Justice, has paralysed the country for more than two weeks. Rising tensions pit the executive against the judiciary, the President against the Prime Minister and tribal groupings against traditional rivals. The Army, which has frequently intervened in the past 50 years, looks on with growing alarm and contempt. Senior officers have made clear that they have no wish to incur international obloquy and General Jehangir Karamat, the Chief of Staff, has urged a cooling-off period. Neither side has paid any attention. It would thus be little wonder if Islamabad soon falls again under military rule.

The fault for this latest and most serious constitutional crisis lies squarely with Mr Sharif. Rarely has a politician so squandered the goodwill that accompanied his election. His decisive defeat of the tainted Government of Benazir Bhutto gave him an unusual chance to cleanse public life in a country that has become one of the most corrupt on earth. His solid majority allowed him to open the first serious talks with India on the corrosive Kashmir question. Yet in his nine months in office he has shown himself obsessed with his predecessor's fate. He has devoted his time and energy to trying to strip both the courts and the President of their powers to dismiss prime ministers. In doing so, he has alienated the other two pillars of Pakistan's Establishment.

It is his direct attack on the judiciary that marks this crisis as more dangerous than the many that have come before. The Prime

Minister should not have challenged the Supreme Court's authority, nor compounded his foolishness by accusing the President and Chief Justice of collusion and attempting to rush a Bill through Parliament to secure him against any conviction for contempt. Mr Sharif's own behaviour is also less than sagacious. He represents one of the few enduring institutions that have functioned with dignity throughout the country's tumultuous history. But prickliness is the best guide in times of turmoil, the more so as Mr Sharif himself faces a mutiny from other Supreme Court judges. They question his appointment, and want the 15 justices to hear petitions for his removal. In the confusion, the court has halted all sessions indefinitely.

The result of this imbroglio is both farcical and tragic. Mr Sharif and Mr Sharif are each trying to have each other removed from office. Rival mobs are taking to the streets. The storming of the Supreme Court by Mr Sharif's supporters, with obvious police connivance, brings politics to a new low. It can only encourage opportunists and embittered rival tribal factions to violent action under the guise of defending democracy. Pakistan is a country in urgent need of reform, stability and clean government. Its economy is floundering, population soaring, institutions ragged and fabric decaying. On the 50th anniversary of independence, its leaders looked back with gloomy realism at the failed promises, the wasted opportunities. There is a terrible sense of *déjà vu*; and an acknowledgement by frustrated businessmen and community leaders that an army take-over might be the least worst option. Yet again, democracy is failing Pakistan.

DONORS AND DOCTORS

Public lessons can be learnt from this private tragedy

An inquiry may have been set up but that should not stop the questions. The three patients who have discovered that their corneal implants came from a donor infected with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease are entitled to ask why, when weeks passed between the donor's death and their own operation, it took months before it was discovered that the donor had CJD. What should have been a liberation from failing sight has become instead a sentence of fear.

Before patients receive eye-tissue transplants a series of tests for bacterial or fungal infection, hepatitis and HIV are run and, if thought necessary, a post-mortem examination is performed on the donor. In this case, the eye bank where the tissue was stored was not informed that a post-mortem was to take place, or apprised of its results, until eight months after the transplants occurred. Although there is no evidence that this is anything other than an isolated lapse, it will inevitably provoke fears among the public that a National Health Service burdened with paperwork may make similar mistakes in other instances.

As well as trying to locate where the weak link is in this case, the Government is wise to broaden the inquiry's brief. It should consider stress-testing all methods of monitoring the health of transplant tissue. It may be, indeed probably is, a single human error

which has blighted the lives of three patients but the opportunity to overhaul communications between the hospitals of donors and those of patients should not be neglected.

It is not only the way in which doctor speaks unto doctor but how doctors inform their patients that might, with profit, be reviewed. The Scottish Health Minister, Sam Galbraith, himself a surgeon as well as a transplant patient, stressed yesterday that the individual relationship between physician and patient inevitably governed how bad news was broken. It is, however, possible to question if it should have been left entirely up to each doctor in this case to decide how to deal with those patients who had received the suspect tissue.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob has become a disease with a power to create panic, partly because it is an invisible killer, but also because the last government handled concern about BSE so badly. Although the strain of CJD with which the eye donor was infected is not believed to be linked to BSE, there are lessons to be learned from the bovine madness — full candour and a sense of proportion are the best antidotes to unnecessary hysteria. The Scottish Office has moved swiftly to establish an inquiry with a broad brief: it is to be hoped that openness now will reduce the risk of future recipients waking to find hopes of a new life dimmed.

Closure of mines 'short-sighted'

From Professor Ken Coates, MEP for Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour))

Sir, Yvette Cooper is right to argue for diverse energy options (article, "Don't kill off king coal", November 28; see also report, December 1).

Deep-mined coal is now mined at some twenty pits in Britain, five of them in my constituency. A neighbouring sixth colliery takes coal in the Newstead area. All are under threat, because of the decline in coal burning in power stations. If there is no intervention, most of them will certainly close. This is a wholly unnecessary crisis because intervention could take many forms.

The British coal industry is at the leading edge of technology. It has achieved considerable advances in clean-coal technology which could yield global environmental benefits. There has also been important progress in the derivation of liquid fuels from coal. There is a powerful case for exploring whether it may be worthwhile to rescue the industry for these purposes. The British Coal Corporation was working on this but, following privatisation, projects to test its possibilities have been abandoned.

The oil-from-coal issue could be fundamental to the future of the coal industry. The reducing oil supply and increasing demand for transport fuels mean that the cost of oil could rise sharply during the next two decades. At present, the EU imports over 80 per cent of its oil and is set to import an increasing amount of gas.

It is short-sighted to close coal production capacity at a time when the favourable economics of coal conversion are about to increase demand for it. This process could reduce the EU's dependence on imported energy. Britain is the leading coal producer in the EU, and has the bulk of the workable reserves. It makes no sense at all to sacrifice what remains of the British deep-mine coal industry to the short-term dictates of the energy market, rigged as it is at present.

Yours sincerely,
KEN COATES,
8 Regent Street,
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire,
December 1.

From Mr Simon Perkins

Sir, Where was the Union of Democratic Mineworkers when the NUM was fighting for a "level playing field" against nuclear power in 1984-85? Appeals for help to the Labour Party, old or new, sound a little curious coming from the UDM.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PERKINS,
Maple Tree Cottage,
Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckingham.
simon_jb_perkins@compuserve.com
December 1.

Matters of conscience

From Lord Rix

Sir, Last Friday must surely go down as one of the busiest ever in the pre-weekend workings of the House of Commons, with 562 MPs crowding into the division lobbies and droves of placard-carrying protesters milling outside.

Was war about to be declared? Or were the masses rising in protest at the possible cuts in benefits for single mothers, disabled people, the social services, university students, the homeless and other disadvantaged groups?

We all know the answer — every anthropomorphic instinct residing in every British breast had been aroused — and the pub sign The Fox & Hounds would soon be cast into the dustbin.

But is that the only answer? I suspect that the prospect of being able to speak their own minds and vote according to their own principles encouraged many an MP to be present.

If all of the matters mentioned above (and others, too, of great import and immediacy to the public) were freed from the three-line whip and the threat of constant votes of confidence removed, wouldn't this force ministers and departments to be much more clear, open and clever in their arguments and allow MPs truly to represent the opinions of their constituents?

It could even be seen as a rough and ready form of FPR giving Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and his commission (report, later editions, December 1) food for thought over the festive season.

Yours etc,
BRIAN RIX,
House of Lords,
December 1.

Party manners

From Mr John R. Moore

Sir, Dr Sturma's "Fear of festivity", Body and Mind, November 27 gives prescriptions for overcoming social phobia.

What does he prescribe for the sufferer from sheer boredom from other guests at the same social occasions?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. MOORE,
Hillhead,
Chudleigh Knighton, Devon.
November 27.

Private medicine's role in performance of NHS

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, Unfortunately, the NHS continues to suffer from party political civil war, in which statistics such as waiting lists are used as weapons.

A more detached view should encompass more important issues, such as how long people have been waiting and what for. To wait even days for cancer treatment must seem like eternity, whereas one might prefer to delay treatment for non-urgent conditions until a convenient time.

It may also be worth observing that the current NHS waiting list of 1.2 million is no more than a few months' work, based on current output. It is tempting to believe that improved efficiency and better management would go a long way towards solving the problem.

What should be much more disturbing for the present Government is the statistic that between 20 and 30 per cent of those currently obtaining elective treatment such as hip replacements and coronary bypass surgery do so in the private sector.

All the evidence suggests that this proportion is growing in which case, it will indeed be a pyrrhic victory. In say five years' time, to claim that total NHS waiting lists have been reduced. Access to healthcare will have been effectively privatised, and only those able to pay will receive it within reasonable time.

Political parties should declare a truce, at least until there is agreement as to whether or not this country should continue to have a National Health Service based on the founding principles declared in 1948.

Reminders should not be needed so close to its half century; but these principles comprised a comprehen-

sive health service available to all, free at the point of need, and funded out of general taxation.

Yours sincerely,
D. L. CROSBY
(Chairman, Cardiff Community Healthcare),
Trenwedd,
Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff,
November 24.

From Mr Richard Temple

Sir, There will be no shortening of hospital waiting lists until there is a complete separation of public and private healthcare at consultant/surgeon level.

So long as the consultants in charge of the NHS waiting lists are also treating privately those patients from the list who are not prepared to wait then there will simply be no incentive for consultants to reduce the length of their waiting lists. Quite the reverse, in fact.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. TEMPLE,
3 Bramble Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent,
November 28.

From Sir Rodney Sweetnam,
President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Sir, It is surely good news to hear that Mr Alan Milburn, the Minister for Health ("Getting the NHS off its sick-bed", November 26), supports the re-creation of a genuinely "national" health service, and that more money is required. Some may question, though, his belief that its present cost-effectiveness is responsible for reducing the UK tax burden to below the European average.

However efficient the system, those waiting to see an orthopaedic surgeon

in the hope of having a hip or knee replacement, were they to know a little more, might think of another explanation. In this country we have the lowest ratio of orthopaedic surgeons to population — a little more than half the average — of any country within the EU, with the exception of Ireland. The same could be said of almost all surgical specialties.

I would endorse more vigorous assessment of clinical and cost-effective treatments, and this college is doing all it can to help. The problem, though, has very deep roots indeed, and the country will never be comfortable with its health service until Parliament addresses the fundamental problem of matching resources with the ever increasing and totally justified demand. This may be impossible with current methods of funding; if so, let us say so openly.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SWEETNAM,
President,
The Royal College of Surgeons of England,
45-47 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
November 26.

From Mr Mark Stockwell

Sir, Alan Milburn states that "the proportion of GDP spent on the health service has changed little over the last 20 years" — and this during a period in which GDP has increased significantly.

Funny, because I had always thought that the NHS had been "ravaged by Tory cuts".

Yours faithfully,
MARK STOCKWELL,
9 Elm Close,
South Croydon, Surrey,
November 27.

Royal Yacht

From Ms Adrienne May

Sir, You report (November 28) that the Princess Royal wishes the *Briannia* to be scuttled rather than be allowed to deteriorate.

However, the yacht is not some holy relic that cannot be allowed to fall into the hands of lesser mortals. It is the property of the British people and as such, with the rest of the superfluous family silver, should be sold off to the highest bidder.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIENNE MAY,
2 Burton Close,
North Walsham, Norfolk.

From Sir Peter Johnson

Sir, You report that "Ministers have already concluded" that disposal of *HMV Britannia* by scrapping or sinking would cause "public outrage". There is no record that this ever occurred with the end of any of the other 45 Royal Yachts commissioned since 1660.

The *Royal George*, built in 1817 and in which at least three Sovereigns travelled, was even converted to a barrack hulk in 1844 and eventually broken up in 1905.

The first *Victoria and Albert* was built on the urgent orders of the Prime Minister, Robert Peel, in five months flat at Pembroke. This Royal Yacht and two others of the same name were scrapped respectively in 1868, 1904 and 1954, the last after the commissioning of *Briannia*.

If the latter is scrapped, at least the proceeds could be a start towards a sail-training royal vessel or national flagship of whatever type may be considered suitable, after a few years of calm reflection.

Alternatively, the Government might like to decide that the time has come to make a public apology for the scrapping of all previous Royal Yachts.

Yours etc,
PETER JOHNSON
(Author, *Encyclopedia of Yachting*, Doring Kindersley, 1990),
Buckland Dene,
Lymington, Hampshire,
November 30.

Where the aliens are

From Dr Mark Wilson

Sir, It is not often that my home state of Ohio is mentioned in *The Times*, but I'm afraid that your report (November 23) on Matthew Bevan (the hacker who plagued NASA) made a geographical error.

Area 51, where "alien spacecraft are secretly held", is in Nevada. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio has a famous hangar where the little green aliens themselves are frozen. Aren't you paying attention during *The X-Files*?

Sincerely yours,
M. A. WILSON,
The College of Wooster,
Wooster, Ohio 44691.
mwilson@acs.wooster.edu
November 23.

Opportunity knocks

From Dr Frank Newton

Sir, Today the locked door of the local jobcentre bore a notice informing the small queue that it was closed at lunchtime owing to shortage of staff.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK NEWTON,
39 Cattle End,
Silverstone, Northamptonshire,
November 28.

Legal aid for children

From Mr R. P. Towers

Sir, The letters you have published from Miss Jean Ritchie, QC (November 19), and from Mr Graeme Williams, QC (November 26), highlight two of the particular problems arising out of conditional-fee agreements in cases involving children and disabled cases.

However, as partner in a solicitors' practice which specialises in acting for children with injuries and illnesses, I regard the potential problems as far wider.

The rules of court dictate that a settlement for a child should be approved by the court and that any compensation be invested by the court on the child's behalf.

In such cases we do not ask the child for payment in respect of fees and accept whatever we can agree with the other side to ensure the child keeps the compensation. The Legal Aid Board is refunded any payments it has made during the case.

As things stand, a child is assessed on his or her income rather than the parents' income, since it is the child who is making a claim, and the action is run in the child's interest.

Doubtful paternity

From Dr Patrick J. Lincoln

Sir, Caroline Bridgewood ("Mother's dilemma: whose son is he?", Week-

end, November 22) quotes child support agencies as suggesting that in some countries the number of cases where the man presented as the father for testing proves not to be so could be as high as 15 per cent. This figure is consistent with my own experience from over 30 years of testing in cases involving doubtful paternity.

However, such a figure depends on two factors: the efficiency of the tests at detecting non-paternity (which should with modern methods reach at least 99.9 per cent) and, perhaps more importantly, the true number of instances of non-paternity among those selected for investigation.

The actual incidence of non-paternity among cases investigated by, for example, child support agencies is

likely to be much higher than in the general population as, by definition, paternity of the child in all those cases is likely to be in question.

Therefore the figure of 15 per cent — drawn from cases where paternity is in doubt — cannot be assumed to apply to the population as a whole. To use it may encourage a misunderstanding of what is meant by the "significant number of men" Ms Bridgewood refers to in the general population who are unknowingly raising children who are not their genetic offspring.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK J. LINCOLN
(Honorary fellow and emeritus reader in haemogenetics),
St Bartholomew's and The Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry,
Department of Haematology,
Turner Street, E1,
November 23.

Parking solutions

From Mr Ivor Lask

Sir, "Far more attention needs to be given to the local needs of residents" (Mr R. Phillips's letter, November 29). As an optometrist, I purchased a business parking permit for £255 from Lambeth Borough Council in July on the introduction of a new parking scheme, only to discover that there was virtually no provision for business users. I am not allowed to park in residents' bays in the borough even though they are largely empty during business hours.

I have been forced, as a result, to suspend visits to housebound patients until the parking department can resolve this absurd situation. My protestations thus far have met with sympathy but no action. The council is satisfied it has discouraged commuter parking in the borough to the general benefit of residents, but seems to have created a scheme with no flexibility to aid the housebound.

Yours,
IVOR LASK,
60a Brixton Road, SW9.
ivorlask@mcmail.com
December 1.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Disabled on stage

From Mrs Claire Mulholland

Sir, I was astonished to read ("A ripple of disapproval", Arts, November 28) that Martin McDonagh's play, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, has been criticised for its alleged hostility to handicapped people and for the fact that the principal part was not given to a handicapped person.

In my view, McDonagh is holding up to us, as in a mirror, attitudes which undoubtedly exist. He is not condemning them, he is asking us to make our own judgment.

He asks us to acknowledge the gifts and sensitivities of handicapped people instead of ignoring or dismissing them.

Martin McDonagh's particular gift is to expose the cruelty and giftedness below the surface of events and conversation, the tragedy lurking beneath the trivialities and to depict powerfully the insensitivity and goodness of ordinary people.

Incidentally, I found the name of the handicapped players' group, the Tottering Bipeds Company, much more offensive than anything in McDonagh's play.

Yours sincerely,
CLAIRE MULHOLLAND,
43 Westbourne Gardens,
Glasgow 12,
November 29.

BRIEFINGS

Armstrong Technology Associates, a Wallingford marine design consultancy, is this year's winner of the Shell Livewire Export Challenge for small and medium-sized companies. Livewire is now inviting applications for its 1998 Business Start Up Awards for firms that have been running for three to 18 months. Call 0345 573 252.

Grant Thornton, the business adviser, is setting up a lobby group to campaign against new powers given to Customs and Excise to claw back VAT on disposals of property and computers. Grant claims the powers contravene European law. The first meeting is on Thursday in London. Call Douglas Gordon on 01865 244977.

The 4,000th conversion of a redundant building by the Rural Development Commission was opened at Marsden, Huddersfield. Applications from the private sector for grants may be sent to the commission at 19 Dacre Street, London SW1H 0DH.

Abbey National is piloting a direct business and professional banking operation in the East Midlands, Central Midlands and East Anglia. It is aimed at sole proprietors and businesses with two partners keeping their accounts in credit and banking by telephone or post.

Britain's first bank accounts, products and services in the euro currency will be introduced by NatWest early next year, mainly to make trading easier for exporters and importers dealing with countries that enter European economic and monetary union in 1999.

Jewson, the builders' merchant, and Royal Bank of Scotland have launched a Visa credit card for small businesses. Details from Jewson branches or call 0800 539766.

The Employee Share Ownership Centre, a non-profitmaking organisation, will hold a conference aimed at small and medium-sized businesses at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London, on February 3. Call Fred Hackworth on 0171-436 9936.

Two thirds of the exporters in a survey by Trade Indemnity, the international credit insurer, believed that Britain's participation in a single European currency would benefit their business, although only a third of them were preparing for it, and 44 per cent regretted the Government's decision to stay out until after the next general election.

Hobby bred opportunity to enjoy fruits of labour

Clare Stewart on a thriving business that grew out of the collecting bug

Chris and Amanda Dennis have seen their hobby grow into a thriving business in the past three years. The Citrus Centre, just outside the small town of Pulborough, in West Sussex, is a retail and wholesale nursery. It offers a wide range with varieties of mandarin, kumquat and satsumas, as well as oranges and lemons.

The centre's customer list is equally diverse, including amateur enthusiasts, Kew Gardens and the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley. They also have clients in Portugal.

The idea for the nursery grew out of collecting citrus trees as a hobby and filling their house to capacity and beyond, says Mrs Dennis. "We spent 12 years finding out how to do it but the more we collected the less reliable was the information we could find about the plants."

Mr Dennis was a self-employed engineer, working mainly for small companies. He considered developing his other hobby, racing Minis, by building engines and selling Mini spare parts.

The lemons won the day, although as Mr Dennis admits he had "tremendous worries" about making a business from a hobby.

In 1994 they bought a house and ten-acre site of a former market garden. The Citrus Centre opened



Chris and Amanda Dennis have built up a diverse customer list for their citrus products

four months later at Easter 1995. While Mr Dennis concentrates on the propagation and cultivation of the plants, his wife deals with administration and marketing while also looking after their 19-month-old son, Henry.

Another unexpected factor proved a valuable boost to the business. "What helped initially was the change in 1994 of EC regulations that stopped citrus imports coming in from outside Europe. It helped us tremendously because a lot of garden centres used to be supplied from countries like New Zealand," says Mr Dennis.

There are about 8,000 plants on the nursery spanning 130 varieties of citrus. Lemons are the biggest sellers and are usually recommended for beginners. The average customer spends about £40, says Mrs Dennis.

Customer care, as much as plant care, is a key part of the business and buyers are encouraged to come back if they have problems. "Overwatering is the biggest killer," says Mr Dennis. "We are careful who we supply and have even turned people down because the conditions where the plants would be kept have not been right."

The couple admit that the first year was a voyage into the unknown. "Our initial projections were guesswork. We underestimated the space needed and had no idea of costs for things like potting compost," says Mr Dennis.

The Citrus Centre, which is based at Marehill, is expected to break even this year and will take another step forward with the addition of a large new glasshouse that will enable them to increase supplies to garden centres and other important customers. The Citrus Centre is on 01798 872786.

Small hotels press for B&B houses to pay business rates

By Rodney Hobson

BRITAIN'S small hotels are campaigning for business rates to be imposed on private householders who let rooms to tourists. The National Council of Hotels Associations has written to Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister, asking for the rules on business rates, effective since 1991, to be properly enforced.

The letter follows a meeting between the council and the Valuation Office Agency at which the agency clarified the rules. The council also wants the minister to consider a complete review of the rating system which, it says, unfairly penalises small hotels.

Business rates were to be imposed on private houses if beds were provided for at least six visitors, or if more than half the building was let. Local rating officers were given scope for discretion. For example, a very large house with six bedrooms let could be exempt from business rates while a small house with fewer than six bedrooms might qualify.

Valuation officers should take into account any physical alterations such as en-suite bathrooms, locks on bedroom doors and the type of furnishings. After complaints by small hoteliers that the rules were not being applied, the Valuation Office Agency has agreed to reissue instructions to local offices to remove any doubts about the regulations.

Fernley Smith, president of the National Council of Hotels Associations, says: "A large number of private householders have been taking in boarders and no one has been brought to book. Every sum-

mer you see houses with bed-and-breakfast signs outside. Guides published by the English Tourist Board, the AA, the RAC and other bodies are full of advertisements for private houses that take boarders. Yet, as far as business rates are concerned, they are not known, not registered and not identified."

Mr Smith argues that the Thatcher Government got business rates wrong and subsequent Governments have failed to tackle the problem. He says: "Rating valuations are based on rental values. The world has changed. You can have a computer and a modem and make a million in your front room. Hotels and guesthouses have got an enormous investment in capital and are dependent on bedspace occupancy. The business rate is based on the rental value for the whole of the property for the whole of the year but beds are not filled all year round."



"I wish I was big enough to be reviled for making huge donations to political parties!"

Bank seeking truth about women

WHAT'S the truth about women in business? Are they naive or smart? Do they have trouble obtaining finance? Is there sex discrimination? A programme called Millennium Monitor has been introduced by Lloyds Bank to assess its 100,000 female business customers through six-monthly interviews over the next three years (Brian Collett writes).

The bank hopes to improve its understanding of women's issues - from difficulties in being taken

seriously in business to the complexities of simultaneously managing a family and a company - and to remove any prejudices it may discover.

The bank says that many women believe they have trouble securing business funding but this may be perceived rather than real. Millennium Monitor is part of Lloyds Bank's Female Focus 2000, an overall strategy designed to help women to play a bigger role in business. One of the aims is to

appoint more women as bank managers. The strategy was launched yesterday in conjunction with the European Commission's initiative, Female Entrepreneurship in Europe Is a Woman's Business.

John Spence, Lloyds business banking managing director, said: "We'll use our data and future findings to reinforce the message to each of our managers that all business should be assessed on merit, not gender."

Charcoal back on front burner

A CHARCOAL industry creating new businesses and jobs in the Chilterns area will be proposed at a one-day conference early next year (Brian Collett writes).

The businesses would use surplus timber from woodland thinning and felling to make charcoal to meet the huge demand coming mainly from the rising popularity of barbecuing.

The Chilterns area sweeps across Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Berkshire, and 20 per cent of it, about 40,000 acres, is covered by woodland. Much of the debris from thinning and felling is burnt on site, left to rot, taken as firewood, or transported by lorry, possibly 100 miles, to be turned into pulp or chipwood with little profit to the landowners, says the Chiltern Woodlands Project, a conservation body backed by public funds and private donations, which is organising the conference.

About 95 per cent of the charcoal burnt in Britain is imported, so a Chilterns charcoal industry could benefit Britain's economy by cutting the import bill. Some of the charcoal may be from non-renewable sources, says the project, so a home-derived product would be environmentally more desirable.

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The race for December's £1,000 prize begins

The story so far

It seems some thanks are in order. I have to admit it. Your advice about the weekend revaluation was spot on for once.

For once? Okay, it was spot on again. And are you telling me that you, for once, had the wisdom to take that advice? Up to a point, yes.

Only up to a point? Well, as I mentioned last week, I'm getting close to my transfer limit.

But you did manage to buy in some players who were revalued upwards? Oh, yes. Baiano and Walsh. I couldn't afford Eranio. How nostalgic for you. Walsh was one of your original team back at the start of the season, wasn't he? Don't remind me. When I think of all the points he could have scored me if I hadn't been seduced by your talk of tight Leeds defences...

That's tight defences, actually, and Robert Molenaar scored quite a few points for you, don't forget. Agreed, but he seems to be out of favour with George Graham these days. He was only a substitute at Barnsley on Saturday.

It's no longer an eleven-man game these days, remember. But the player has to play at least a half to get an appearance point.

True, but Molenaar got a point for being on the winning side: not that that is much consolation to you, I suppose. Have you still got Babayara, by the way? You've been very quiet about him since he actually made it into the Chelsea side. My spies say he had his best game so far on Saturday.

Yes, he's still in there — hasn't missed a game for me. Another clean sheet and a win against Derby; after my Walsh experience, I'm sticking with him. Did you have any inside information about revaluation, by the way? None at all: it was a matter of logic, pure and simple. I looked at the players in the ITF lists with high points to take but low valuations, and vice versa. John Hartson of West Ham is a good example. Nevertheless, I have to admit there were one or two revaluations that surprised me. Elliott, Walsh's mate, went down by half a million, for instance.

So you don't claim to know everything, then? Not at all. I merely give advice as I see it.

Well, it's reassuring to know the self-styled experts are fallible.

If not quite as fallible as you.

How you can climb 46,000 places in a mere seven days; winners for November soon to be announced; plus FA Cup league details

Anyone who names their team "The Undefeated" immediately becomes a hostage to fortune; but Mr A. Barlow of Newcastle upon Tyne has at least found his way to the top of this week's list of the highest climbers in the Interactive Team Football leagues. His score of 59 points in seven days has taken his selection up 46,720 places from a rather modest 131,408th position to a relatively respectable 84,688th.

Unexpectedly, bearing in mind Mr Barlow's address, his team contains no players from the St James's Park strength. Ed De Goey and Gianfranco Zola have been the highest contributors to his total: with Chelsea playing and winning twice, De Goey keeping Everton and Derby at bay and Zola banging in the goals, the two Blues brought in 38 points between them.

The winners of the monthly ITF prizes for November will be announced on these pages next week. In addition to the main monthly winner, prizes including cash, sports equipment and tickets to premier league games are awarded to winners of the mini-leagues.

If you have that distinct nothing-to-play-for feeling so familiar to managers becalmed outside the European places yet comfortably out of the reach of relegation (although a monthly winner's



prize is always a possibility in ITF) then the coming weekend brings the draw for the third round of the FA Cup, when a home tie against a non-league side raises a vision of the twin towers — or the spectre of a humiliating knock-out. It is of

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
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Hartson: fine recent performances have led to his price being increased

special relevance for ITF entrants: the third round, to be played over the first weekend of 1998, will mark the beginning of the ITF FA Cup league. Players in your team will score points based on their cup performances: transfer tactics will be crucial as the number of teams still in the cup shrinks round by round. More details will follow as third round day approaches.

ITF helpline: 01582 702720.

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The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 22 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
£50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize	Professionals choose their fantasy team
STUDENTS' LEAGUE Monthly prize of £1,000 for best player, signed football and sports bag	YOUTH LEAGUE Monthly prize of £1,000 for best player, signed football and sports bag
WOMEN'S LEAGUE Monthly prize of £1,000 for best player, signed football and sports bag	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 B Fletcher	463	Ab Fab	463
2 S Whitfield	459	Snail Busters	459
3 C Purdy	437	Kates Cosmos	437
4 H Irvine	432	Hel's Belles	432
5 J Gardner	428	IS Chumbawumbas	428
6 S Brooks	423	Sandras Specials	423
7 S Reader	419	Sophie Reader Fa	419
8 B Sharp	418	Penfield FC	418
9 A Beam	417	Harry's Heroes	417
10 A Sloan	417	Pussie Utd	417
11 M Hussain	413	Good Luck Malika	413
12 P Bee	410	Bumble Five	410
13 K Tindall	408	XII Superstars	408
14 S Catchpole	408	Blue Boys	408
15 J Bittmead	406	Janet's Allstars	406
16 D Shepherd	405	Dart Destroyers	405
17 J Lumsdaine	405	Alax Leamington	405
18 A Tenn	404	Over The Moon	404
19 V Douglass	403	The Belle Delli	403

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N Wheatley	513	H D G Is A Sad Waster	513
2 G Wilson	480	Dog Soldiers	480
3 Mr N Wheatley	479	Whitbridge Is Ill	479
4 T Gardner	452	IS Chumbawumbas	452
5 C Marianczak	448	Jansen's XI	448
6 N Wheatley	447	A Tight Horse Is Run	447
7 J Gardner	426	IS Chumbawumbas	426
8 J Winden	426	Father Shaboo	426
9 P Henson	417	Hensonhammers	417
10 Z Tzeer	416	Ziggy Greaves XI	416
11 F Ferguson	415	Saucy Sue Barker	415
12 J McCall	412	The White Helms	412
13 J Frost	410	Variety Sports Inter	410
14 C Van Hough	407	The Boy Sprouts	407
15 M Griffiths	406	The Town	406
16 Steven Shipley	405	Set Against	405
17 R Lee	402	Magwellamars	402
18 J Liveridge	402	Real Ramsbottom	402
19 HK Gujadhur	398	Hem's Eleventh	398
20 M Slade	396	Fantasia One	396

YOUTH LEAGUE

1 D Lewis	500	Lewis Boys II	500
2 M Sonpal	449	Harley Flames	449
3 C Marianczak	448	Ruby's XI	448
4 R Wicks	442	Robbed	442
5 M McPhillips	440	Ballygallyovers	440
6 M Roberts	426	IS Chumbawumbas	426
7 C Oyston	420	The Offspring III	420
8 E Swirles	418	Esthers Entertainers	418
9 S Mawer	412	Forest Reserves2	412
10 J Tompkins	410	Joachimcharters	410
11 R Alden	409	Cornholme Boys	409
12 K Tindall	408	Flash XI	408
13 G Calderbank	406	Calders XI	406
14 T Smith	404	Up The League FC	404
15 D Greenman	404	Thekfordthecup	404
16 D Chetnam	402	Clifton Rovers	402
17 J Laurence	402	Smooth United	402
18 A Simpson	398	Aye	398
19 C Wheaton	397	Chris's Crackers	397

ITF LEAGUE

1 Mr M Jones	541	J41	541
2 S Legg	540	Goose 4	540
3 G Rainbow	539	Rainbows Topsteam	539
4 Mr M Jones	538	J46	538
5 B Farnley	534	Al-Ing Haidan	534
6 Malcolm Jackson	534	No name	534
7 D Fenton	528	Out Of The Blue	528
8 Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	525	Ca	525
9 Mike Madden	520	Preachers never change	520
10 N Wheatley	513	H D G Is A Sad Waster	513
11 D Shuter	513	Don 2	513
12 D Bate	510	Liberos	510
13 Mr M Jones	510	J45	510
14 Mary Ann Kennedy	508	Too Parr	508
15 C Sloan	506	Bramingham FC	506
16 A Cokombe	506	Mr Wale XI	506
17 S Legg	505	Goose 5	505
18 D Shuter	502	DON 5	502
19 D Shuter	500	Russell 2	500
20 C Millington	497	Survivors	497
21 G Dolan	494	Genesis	494
22 George Mijuskovich	494	Big Mac Europe	494
23 Al Hastings	493	Golden Wonders	493
24 D Busby	493	This Years Lot	493
25 P Turner	489	Turners Earners 5	489
26 S Legg	489	Goose 3	489
27 R Turner	487	Bob's Boys	487
28 C Burr	486	Burr's Spurs 4	486
29 Andrew Bates	486	Wetherby Racing 7	486
30 Mr M Mellon	484	Sheets Hits	484
31 Mr K Leiby	484	K41	484
32 F Bazzil	483	Zara 3	483
33 Steven Adams	483	Britannia Sticks	483
34 Susan Malkin	482	Spaz2	482
35 P Turner	482	Turners Earners 6	482
36 Mr DP Knight	482	Knights	482
37 Chris Forde	481	Game of Two Pints	481
38 James Tan	480	Red Scorpions	480
39 G Wilson	480	Dog Soldiers	480
40 G Kooner	480	United	480
41 J Hunt	480	John Hunt Taunton 7	480
42 Mr M Jones	480	J42	480
43 Mr N Wheatley	479	Whitbridge Is Ill	479
44 P Rees	479	Yukon Merchants	479
45 Mulkand	479	Goulou Goulou	479
46 Philip Ward	479	Wannabe Heroes XI	479
47 V Cox	479	Pegasus And Unicorns	479
48 P Turner	479	Turners Earners 5	479
49 J Strickland	478	Clubs	478
50 P Rendings	477	Eastbrook Stars	477
51 A Old Barn House	477	Tobitt	477
52 Mary Ann Kennedy	477	Inverness Undecided	477
53 Adam Finlay	477	Al7	477
54 B Farnley	476	LE 1	476
55 D Shuter	475	Don 1	475
56 Mr W Finlay	475	Finlays Premier Select	475
57 P Bown	473	Bess XI	473
58 A Nevizicki	472	Nadar	472
59 Mr MC Gunn	472	Hot Shots	472
60 J Hunt	472	John Hunt Taunton 6	472
61 K Farbell	472	Chelsea 6	472
62 J Heather	472	Enid 4	472
63 P Lee	471	Most Marauders	471
64 P Turner	471	Turners Earners 1	471
65 C Milner	471	Premier Stars	471
66 P Turner	471	Turners Earners 10	471
67 J Kitchin	471	Blaze Heads	471
68 W Clark	470	The Wright Ones	470
69 J Bartlett	470	Novice Spotters	470
70 Barba Papa a la Bacon	470	Club 18-30	470
71 Andy Robson	470	Legion	470
72 J Hunt	470	John Hunt Taunton 1	470
73 T Cannage	469	Drowned Goldfish	469
74 J Sanderson	468	Best Boy 5	468
75 P Dargall	468	Hakin Utd	468
76 A Maddocks	468	Sea	468
77 Tim Oldfield	468	Winstar Warriors 1	468
78 Brian O'Hare	468	The Warriors	468
79 Mary Ann Kennedy	468	Oiling Back RNG	468
80 R Jones	467	Oil Black H	467
81 Graeme Dobson	467	St Remy Strikers	467
82 DM Carter	465	Pinewood Farm	465
83 D Walton	465	Nunbury Nuns	465
84 R Ward	465	Nonchalant A FC 4	465
85 A Birwell	465	File Flyers	465
86 Mr S Corne	465	Seagw Again	465
87 J Hunt	465	John Hunt Fa Cup A	465
88 C Burr	464	Burr's Spurs 9	464
89 Michael Huddleston	464	Pulp Fiction III	464
90 C Scarlett	464	FC 506	464
91 P Turner	464	Turners Earners 1	464
92 Mr K Leiby	464	K56	464
93 P Bee	463	Bumble Twelve	463
94 B Fletcher	463	AB Fab	463
95 Steve Smith	463	Sniffle All Stars	463
96 J Hunt	463	United United	463
97 J Hunt	463	John Hunt Taunton 3	463
98 J Hunt	463	John Hunt Taunton 8	463
99 J Hunt	463	John Hunt Taunton A	463

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1 Paul Simpson	348	Derby County/Wolves	348
2 Simon Grayson	339	Asen Villa	339
3 John Salako	338	Coventry City	338
4 Dean Blackwell	338	Wimbledon	338
5 Alf-Ing Haidan	316	Leeds United	316
6 Robert Lee	315	Newcastle United	315
7 Steve Potts	310	West Ham United	310
8 Kevin Ballacher	286	Blackburn Rovers	286
9 Kyle Lighthouse	286	Coventry City	286
10 Rob Savage	283	Leeds United	283
11 David Weatherall	283	Leeds United	283
12 Jonathan Hunt	280	Derby County	280
13 Tim Broadner	278	West Ham United	278
14 Kerry Cunningham	276	Wimbledon	276
15 David Tait	276	Crystal Palace	276
16 Brian Kvarme	276	Liverpool	276
17 Frank Leboeuf	274	Chelsea	274
18 David Barry	274	Newcastle United	274
19 Richard Shaw	267	Coventry City	267
20 Phil Babb	263	Liverpool	263
21 Gareth Southgate	263	Asen Villa	263
22 Dennis Wise	263	Chelsea	263
23 Dean Holdsworth	262	Wimbledon	262
24 Lee Sharpe	262	Leeds United	262
25 David Seaman	262	Arsenal	262
26 Kevin Hinde	262	Chelsea	262
27 Teddy Sheringham	262	Manchester United	262
28 Dave Watson	262	Arsenal	262
29 Kevin Muscat	262	Crystal Palace	262
30 Paul Williams	262	Coventry City	262
31 Andrew Ledford	262	Barnsley	262
32 Nigel Marrya	262	Leeds United	262
33 Jason Elson	262	Wimbledon	262
34 Robbie Keane	262	Leeds United	262
35 John Hendrie	262	Barnsley	262
36 Gary Mabbutt	262	Tottenham Hotspur	262
37 Neil Redfern	262	Barnsley	262
38 Graeme Le Saux	262	Manchester United	262
39 Nicky Butt	262	Asen Villa/Middlesbrough	262
40 Andy Townsend	262	Derby County	262
41 Robbie van der Laan	262	Arsenal	262
42 Lee Dixon	262	Asen Villa	262
43 Ugo Ehiogu	262	Blackburn Rovers	262
44 Robbie Keane	262	Wimbledon	262
45 Patrick Berger	262	Leeds United	262
46 John Bensenford	262	Newcastle United	262
47 John Hendry	262	Blackburn Rovers	262
48 Stewart Cooke	262	Wimbledon	262
49 Chris Powell	262	Derby County	262
50 Andy Roberts	262	Crystal Palace	262
51 Les Belfrage	262	Blackburn Rovers	262
52 Kasey Keller	262	Leeds United	262
53 Ian Pearce	262	West Ham United	262
54 Richard Johnson	262	Leeds United	262
55 Steve Lomas	262	West Ham United	262
56 Roger Cross	262	Chelsea	262
57 Andy Sinton	262	Tottenham Hotspur	262
58 John Salako	262	Tottenham Hotspur	262
59 John Harrison	262	Crystal Palace	262
60 David Williamson	262	Wimbledon	262
61 Gary Neville	262	Everton	262
62 David Beckham	262	Manchester United	262
63 Spencer Prior	262	Manchester United	262
64 Nicky Eaden	262	Leeds United	262
65 Mark Wright	262	Barnsley	262
66 Iain Dowie	262	Liverpool	262
67 Gianfranco Zola	262	West Ham United	262
68 Alan Shearer	262	Derby County	262
69 Lee Carley	262	Derby County	262
70 Colin Calderwood	262	Tottenham Hotspur	262
71 Alan Wright	262	Asen Villa	262
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Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

The latest alterations in player values came into effect yesterday. Shrewd ITF managers will find the bargains



NEW ITF VALUATIONS

These new valuations for Interactive Team Football take effect from today

Code	Player	New	Old
11501	Gilles Rousset	3.5	1.5
11501	Kenny Walker	3.0	2.5
20502	Jeff Kenna	3.0	2.5
21002	Steve Guppy	2.5	1.5
22701	Jason Dodd	1.5	1.0
31801	David Wetherill	2.5	2.0
31804	Lucas Radebe	3.0	1.5
31902	Steve Walsh	3.5	2.5
41102	Stefano Eraso	3.5	2.5
41301	Andy Smith	3.5	2.0
41501	Nail McCann	3.5	2.5
42102	Andy Cole	7.0	5.0
42005	John Barnes	3.0	2.5
42705	Carlton Palmer	2.0	1.5
51108	Francesco Balzano	4.5	2.0
51202	Kjell Olofsson	4.0	2.5
51803	Rod Wallace	3.5	2.5
52401	Marco Negri	5.5	3.5
52801	John Harrison	4.5	3.5
60501	Roy Hodgson	3.5	3.0
61101	Jim Smith	2.5	1.0
61501	Jim Jeffries	3.5	2.5
61801	George Graham	3.0	2.0

VALUES DOWN

Code	Player	New	Old
12301	Shay Given	3.0	4.0
12801	Ian Walker	2.5	3.0
20301	Steve Stanton	2.5	3.0
20302	Alan Wright	2.5	3.0
20303	Simon Grayson	2.0	2.5
22001	St Borneo	3.0	4.0
30301	Tony Adams	3.0	3.5
30302	Martin Keown	3.0	3.5
30303	Gareth Southgate	3.0	3.5
30302	Ugo Ehiogu	3.0	3.5
31901	Matt Elliott	2.5	3.0
32301	Philippe Albert	2.5	3.0
32601	Sol Campbell	2.5	3.0
40801	Dennis Wise	3.5	4.0
42001	S. McManis	6.0	7.0
42006	Paul Ince	4.0	5.0
42401	Brian Laudrup	6.5	8.0
42403	Jonas Thern	3.0	4.0
43001	Robbie Earle	4.0	4.5
43001	Daright York	6.0	7.5
50302	Stu Collymore	5.0	7.0
51401	Duncan Ferguson	4.0	5.0
52001	Robbie Fowler	8.0	8.5
52001	Ray Evans	3.0	4.0
62301	Kenny Dalglish	4.0	4.5



Laudrup: one of last season's top points scorers, now devalued to £6.5 million

The second player revaluation of the Interactive Team Football season took place at midnight on Sunday; the new valuations appear in the lists below.

Players and managers who have performed better than expected have seen their values jump, by as much as £2.5 million in one case, while those who have disappointed have, in turn, been relegated to the bargain basement.

As if fearing the worst, and hoping to make late appeals to those who make the decisions, a number of the fallen had successful weekends – none more so than Steve McManis, the Liverpool captain, whose superbly-struck winning goal in the match against

Arsenal at Highbury was an answer to his own and his team's critics, as well as being worth six points to his personal ITF points total.

Sol Campbell and Ian Walker also enjoyed an unaccustomed victory on an opponent's ground when Tottenham won at Everton, and may be candidates for a return to higher valuations in two months' time if Christian Gross, the new Spurs manager,

has the desired effect at White Hart Lane. Meanwhile, these two England squad regulars are available at bargain prices, as are the likes of Rangers' Brian Laudrup (down from £8 million to £6.5 million), Shay Given of Newcastle (still one of the best young goalkeepers in the FA Cup), and Paul Ince, sure to be back to his best as France '98 approaches.

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

OUT		
51403	Graham Stuart	Everton £2.5m
IN		
21404	Mitch Ward	Everton £1.5m
31404	Carl Tiler	Everton £1.5m

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred will remain part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL LIST OF PLAYERS AND MANAGERS, INCLUDING DECEMBER REVALUATIONS IN BOLD TYPE

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-7
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	2	46
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	28
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	-7	35
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	8	33
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	0	7
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	16	50
10901	S Grizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	22
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	5	34
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	-7	20
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	0	3
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	0	-5
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	3
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50	0	38
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0
11802	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50	2	4
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	4	-11
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	1	41
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	7	52
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	8	42
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	8	71
12201	S Howe	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	-2	21
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	1	-9
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	-5	-5
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	-5	16
12901	I Walker	Tottenham H	2.50	10	34
12901	L Milkosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	3	8
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	2	36

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-20
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	-1	12
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	-1
30203	G Grimandl	Arsenal	2.00	0	14
30204	S Boud	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	6
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	-1	18
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-2	-18
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	-3	-18
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	-2	-3
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	0	22
30504	S Henschel	Blackburn R	2.50	-4	14
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	-3	2
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	2
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	5	13
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	5	10
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	0	5
30702	M McKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	25
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	19
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	5	29
30802	M Durberry	Chelsea	3.00	10	18
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	2	13
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	-1
30901	L Dalglish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-10
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-2
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	5	13
31002	A Linington	Crystal Palace	0.75	4	11
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	4	11
31004	H Hirdarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	4	4
31101	I Stenac	Derby County	2.50	0	7
31102	J Laurens	Derby County	1.50	0	12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	8
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-1	-8
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	-7	-18
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	2
31501	D Welr	Hearts	2.00	0	21
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	-7
31801	D Wetherill	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	24
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	-1	11
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	1	9
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	3.00	-1	9
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	2.50	0	47
31902	P Keamark	Leicester City	2.00	0	28
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	5	34
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	5	9
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	13
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	4	21
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	5	26
32004	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	5	21
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	29
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	2	29
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	8
32302	D Paacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	9
32303	S Hawley	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Dineen	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1	9
32401	S Porriol	Rangers	3.50	1	26
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	20
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	0	-1
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-2
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	4	1
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	-5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	-2	6
32704	K Monkout	St Johnstone	0.50	0	5
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	1	1
32802	J Scales	Tottenham H	2.50	1	4
32803	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	8	4
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	5	9
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	1	-3
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	1	-3
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	1	1
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	1	-9
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	-1	8
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	9

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	3	20
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	24
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	7
42503	R Binkar	Celtic	3.00	0	13
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	0	27
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	0	4
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50	8	27
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	5	26
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	9
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	19
40902	T Solviott	Coventry City	1.50	1	18
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	1	2
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	4	20
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	3	21
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	21
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	6
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50	1	20
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	-1	5
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	1	15
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	13
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	0	34
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50	3	41
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	2	36
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Fairley	Everton	1.50	2	8
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	2	16
41405	J O'Ster	Everton	2.50	0	0
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50	0	41
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	4
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	1	20
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0

2

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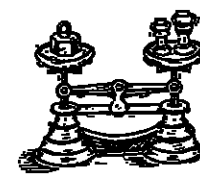
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(balance)

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(sweetness)

+

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(lily)



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Wainhomes bounces back to £4m

WAINHOMES, the house-builder that was the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation and had a management overhaul last year, yesterday reported a 129 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to October 3, from £1.7 million to £4 million (Chris Ayres writes). Turnover was £47.7 million (£45 million). Earnings per share were 4.5p, up 137 per cent from 1.9p. An unchanged interim dividend of 1.5p will be paid on January 9.

The company, whose managing director is Bill Ainscourt, said that improved margins and higher selling prices had helped performance, and that it had bought 517 plots of land since the half-year end.



Steve Owen, left, finance director, and Bill Ainscourt helped Wainhomes to construct a 129 per cent increase in profit

Conflicting signals may prompt clash at MPC

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

MIXED messages from the economy yesterday set the stage for a potentially contentious meeting of the Bank of England's interest-rate setting Monetary Policy Committee, starting tomorrow.

Yesterday's batch of economic data showed few signs that the economy is slowing under the weight of sterling's continued appreciation and successive increases in base rates, giving support to hawks on the MPC who would like to raise rates again. However, there was enough ambiguity

in the latest economic evidence to make any decision on base rates this week a difficult one.

The latest survey of purchasing managers by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply showed that UK manufacturing expanded at a slightly increased rate for the third month running in November, with growth in the sector recording its highest level for seven months.

Strong domestic demand outweighed the negative impact of sterling's strength, allowing orders to show their

fastest rate of growth for a year. Most notable for those who are still looking for an impact on exporters from the pound, export orders rose for the second month running, albeit at a modest rate.

At the same time, there appears to be little inflationary threat from manufacturing with industry's average input prices falling for the twenty-fifth month in a row.

Other statistics released yesterday suggested little let-up in the strength of the consumer economy. Net consumer credit

rose by a seasonally adjusted £901 million in October compared with an increase of £762 million in September. There was a special factor in October's high figure which represented a bounce back from September's low retail sales — and therefore credit card spending — caused by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Nevertheless, there is little evidence that consumer appetite for credit has waned despite higher interest rates.

Narrow M0 money supply jumped 1 per cent in November, taking its annual growth rate to 6.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent in October. However, interpreting this figure is also difficult because of the distorting introduction of the new 50p coin.

Countering recent anecdotal evidence of a modest slowdown in housing market activity, the Halifax today reports that house prices rose 0.9 per cent in November after an increase of 0.5 per cent in October.

The annual rate of increase rose from 5.4 per cent in October to 6.1 per cent, the highest figure since June 1989. However, the Halifax gave warning that this rate of house price inflation was unlikely to be sustained in coming months.

Commentary, page 29

Midwest banks in \$7bn merger

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

CONSOLIDATION in the US banking sector has reached the Midwest states with the \$7.1 billion (£4.2 billion) merger of First of America Bank and National City Corporation. In October First Union and CoreStates Financial tied the knot in a record \$16 billion deal, giving them a strong position along the east coast.

First of America shareholders will swap one share for every 1.2 National City shares, creating the thirteenth largest banking organisation in the US in terms of total assets by the second quarter of 1998. The combined company will have assets of \$75 billion.

National City is based in Cleveland, Ohio, and First of America in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The deal is the latest in a wave of mergers which has seen the number of banks shrink as they try to save money by cutting office and staff costs back, while boosting revenue through the acquisition of a larger customer base.

National City estimates it will be able to reduce expenses by 30 per cent through the consolidation of staff and by merging operations. The two companies expect to incur one-time, pre-tax charges of \$350 million as a result of the deal.

BG moves into insurance

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS has launched an assault on the competitive insurance market with a pilot scheme to sell home and contents insurance to customers.

Centrica, the parent company of British Gas, has teamed up with Privilege, the insurance company, to put together the trial scheme that will be marketed under the British Gas and Goldfish brands across Britain early next year.

The venture will contact holders of Goldfish credit cards and customers signed

up to British Gas's Three-star home service product.

Roy Gardner, Centrica chief executive, said: "Home insurance is a logical extension of our current financial services portfolio. It marks a further step in our strategy of providing customers with a range of products and services centred on home comfort and safety."

Privilege was founded in 1994 by Peter Wood, its chairman and the man responsible for Direct Line, the highly successful telephone insurance company. Mr Wood is a

non-executive director of Centrica.

Benefits offered by the scheme include rebates on a range of British Gas products and services equivalent to a third of the insurance premium. Alternatively, customers can receive Goldfish points.

The Goldfish credit card was launched in 1996 as a joint venture between Centrica and HFC Bank offering discounts on products from a number of companies including Asda, Boots and BT as well as British Gas.

Belfast chip research creates millionaire

By FRASER NELSON

AN AMERICAN scientist who sold his house to set up business in Northern Ireland during the 1980s will become a paper millionaire this month when his company joins the Alternative Investment Market valued at £30 million.

Scott Blackstone, who set up in Belfast to capitalise on the research facilities available at Queen's University, is in line for a shareholding worth £1.2 million when BCO Technologies raises £10 million through a flotation.

After putting his own personal wealth on the line, he recruited six graduates from the university's engineering faculty to work on silicon chip engineering devices.

They developed a system that doubled the number of chips carved on a silicon wafer, and won grants from the International Ireland Fund and British venture capitalists. The company now acts as a refinery between the silicon manufacturers and the microchip producers, making 1,000 silicon wafers a month. Dealings are due to start on December 15.

Carmakers head for export record

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

BRITISH carmakers are smashing export records, with motor manufacturers on target for their best overseas sales for 45 years in spite of the strength of sterling.

Exports will reach nearly a million this year, with six out of ten cars from British factories destined for overseas showrooms. The revival is one of the most remarkable in the world, with production for export doubling in just seven years.

Not since the days when the names of Austin, Morris, Standard and Triumph were familiar around the globe

have British-made cars been so in demand. The Japanese buy Nissans made in Washington, while the Italians queue for Rovers, Toyotas and Hondas made here line the docksides of Europe on their way to buyers all over the Continent, and Jaguar has made its XK8 one of the most desired sports cars in the US.

Japan's Big Three manufacturers — Toyota, Nissan and Honda — have targeted Europe, but destinations for British-made cars include Australia and Pacific Rim nations.

Garel Rhys, head of Cardiff Business School, said: "There are more cars being built for sale abroad than at any time. In terms of industrial regeneration, this is exactly what the country wants, with a recovery led by export sales."

Dr Rhys said: "We have Japanese carmakers sending cars from Britain to Japan and companies such as Jaguar and Land Rover making significant strides in places like the US."

He added: "It is a success story which is largely unsung in the British economy, but it is happening and the motor industry is very important to the British economy."



Rhys: "recovery"

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Sale	Bank	Sale
Australia \$	2.56	Bank	2.40
Austria Sch	22.01	Belgium Fr	20.35
Belgium Fr	66.85	Canada \$	54.81
Canada \$	5.21	Cyprus Cyp	0.817
Cyprus Cyp	0.817	Denmark Kr	11.07
Denmark Kr	11.07	Finland Mk	5.94
Finland Mk	5.94	France Fr	10.46
France Fr	10.46	Germany Dm	3.15
Germany Dm	3.15	Greece Dr	494
Greece Dr	494	Hong Kong \$	12.80
Hong Kong \$	12.80	Ireland P	1.21
Ireland P	1.21	Italy Lira	2064
Italy Lira	2064	Japan Yen	232.15
Japan Yen	232.15	Malta	0.587
Malta	0.587	Netherlands Gld	0.883
Netherlands Gld	0.883	New Zealand \$	2.27
New Zealand \$	2.27	Norway Kr	12.80
Norway Kr	12.80	Portugal Esc	317.23
Portugal Esc	317.23	S Africa R	8.98
S Africa R	8.98	Spain Ptas	200.48
Spain Ptas	200.48	Sweden Kr	13.94
Sweden Kr	13.94	Switzerland Fr	2.56
Switzerland Fr	2.56	Turkey Lira	332.14
Turkey Lira	332.14	USA \$	1.788
USA \$	1.788		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

IT firms await stock exchange decision

THE UK's information technology companies should discover today whether they are to be granted their own London stock market sector. The FTSE actuaries' industry classification committee was considering the proposal yesterday afternoon before making its decision known today.

The proposal would see software companies such as Logica, currently housed in the support services sector, transferred to an information technology category, although the fate of companies such as Psion, which predominantly sells electronic hardware, was uncertain before the meeting.

The software industry hopes that a separate information technology classification will stimulate interest from analysts and investors. Research by Granville, the investment bank, claimed that 70 per cent of UK fund managers believe a separate information technology sector would be better than the current system.

Eurocamp puts up profit

EUROCAMP, the camping holiday specialist, is in the mood for acquisitions after reporting a 21 per cent jump in pro forma 1997 pre-tax profits to £11.2 million on turnover 2 per cent higher at £106.4 million. After a change in the year end, the company also reported profits for the 11 months to September 30, which came in slightly higher at £11.3 million. It said acquisitions were "a distinct possibility". Pro forma earnings were up 18 per cent to 21.6p, and a final dividend of 7.75p makes 11.5p (11p).

Leopold Joseph slips

LEOPOLD JOSEPH HOLDINGS, the international merchant bank, saw half-year pre-tax profits slip £70,000 to £102 million, reflecting increased investment in the business and some underperformance. Expenses leapt 24 per cent to £3.7 million as the company set up a new trust operation in the Bahamas. Analysts liked the underlying growth in income of 16 per cent, pushing the shares up 5p to 635p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 4.5p.

Britons 'underinsured'

BRITONS are underinsured and unprepared for retirement, serious illness or the cost of long-term care, according to a report on the UK insurance industry by the European Policy Forum, an independent research group. The report finds that one in three families has no life cover, less than 10 per cent of adults have individual permanent health insurance and more than eight million employed and self-employed people have no personal pension arrangements to supplement state provision.

UDO receives approach

UDO, the office supplies and reprographic services group, yesterday revealed that it had received a bid approach that could value the company at up to £47 million, or 210p a share. The statement came after UDO's shares rose sharply last week as speculation over a possible takeover approach heightened. It also followed a buyback in August of 7.4 million shares — about 25 per cent of the company's capital — returning £10 million to shareholders.

Allen advances 51%

ALLEN, the building, contracting and engineering group, raised pre-tax profits 51 per cent in its half year to September 28, from £4.7 million to £7.1 million, on turnover up 78 per cent, from £71 million to £127 million. Gearing rose from 31.4 per cent to 45.7 per cent. Earnings per share rose 40 per cent, from 8.75p to 12.29p, and an interim dividend of 4.38p, up from 3.07p, is due on January 30. The company said that the three acquisitions made this year were performing well.

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COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Today we will learn a little more about Isa, the mysterious successor to Peps and Tessa. Tracy at the checkout will be acting as Isa's agent, since this new spending plan is to be on sale at the local supermarket. In his pre-Budget Report last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer voiced his horror that around half the population have hardly any savings. Making Isa available alongside the ready meals and washing powder is part of the plan to change that statistic.

This is one more step in the radical restructuring of the distribution of financial services that is rapidly robbing the old bank brigade of any pretensions to superiority. Now, selling financial services is just like selling anything else. So perhaps there should be no surprise in the fact that GE Capital is looking increasingly likely to be the new owner of Private Patients Plan, the country's second largest provider of private health insurance.

The mighty GE is best known in the UK for the credit cards it operates on behalf of myriad of high street names. Perhaps the plan is to encourage people to pay for their insurance when they pay their monthly store card bills. The Government has made clear that the National Health Service will not be able to meet all our needs and so the concept of an element of private funding for healthcare will have to become as widely accepted as Isa

herself is intended to be. This fact will not have escaped the ambitious chaps at GE, who, in PPP, will have seen a name that is well established and has had £50 million of advertising lavished upon it in recent years.

Profits of the business have not risen in line with that, since PPP has been sacrificing margin to keep its customers as newcomers have entered the healthcare market. But as the welfare state becomes increasingly dependent on private provision, the scope for growth could be enormous.

Jack Welch, the formidable chairman of GE, is determined that his company should grow rapidly in Europe and forking out around £600 million for PPP would hardly break his bank: European profits alone are now at the £1 billion level.

The group's interests have moved well beyond its original industrial roots, and now stretch from television and information technology to aerospace. In the UK, its activities already go well beyond the store cards and include leasing, venture capital and property. The attractions of PPP have not gone unnoticed by others, particularly insurers who have yet to make their first move into healthcare. But insiders are

putting the odds firmly in GE's favour and expect a deal within weeks. If successful, GE may be expected to use its new insurance operation to move rapidly into a wider range of financial services. Since the Government is looking for private-sector partners, GE would not be slow to offer help.

Tracy will have no difficulty in coping with the new order of financial services. Only the traditionalists will be left wondering where the business went.

Exchange is not fit for gentlemen

Having played down the idea that there was anything peculiar in its trading in top pharmaceutical shares on Friday, JP Morgan duly suspended two of its dealers over the matter on Monday. This distinguished house clearly has a problem on its hands. The worse problem lies, however, with the

London Stock Exchange itself and with Life, the futures market, which was as keen as the dominant Americans for the underlying equity market to change its trading system.

A few stray sales of top stocks near the end of trading on Friday suddenly pushed the FTSE-100 share index down by nearly 1 per cent. It should be recalculated. But you do not need to rush to any judgment in this case to see its implications. Under the old trading system, a few market-making firms might be able to rig the index if their deadly rivals allowed them to. Now any smart aleck with access to the right keyboard buttons can do it.

This unbecome outbreak of democracy can be blamed on the lack of trading volume revealed by the move away from the London system, under which market-makers had to display buying and selling prices and deal by phone at all times on those, or better, terms. The

trouble was market-makers took a turn averaging 0.6 per cent in the top 100 stocks to finance the capital needed to fund their positions. Life also had reason to fear that market-makers could influence the 100-share index at crucial moments to help their hedging positions in derivatives.

Order-driven trading systems that matched real buyers and sellers should avoid both these drawbacks. But the Exchange's Sets system runs alongside market-making and accounts for little more than a third of trading. It has little liquidity either at the start or the end of the day. Early on, in particular, spreads can cost investors much more than they used to.

In these periods, trades in even the normally liquid top stocks can be pushed through at up to 20 per cent above or below what would have been the ruling price.

Given the threats posed by the order-driven system, especially to private investors, the exchange

can hardly force all trades in FTSE stocks to go through and it would seem suicidal to extend Sets to smaller and therefore less liquid stocks. The humiliating alternative for this self-consciously "modern" market may be to shrink official trading back to gentlemen's hours, starting at 10 am and stopping at lunchtime on Friday for the weekend.

UK may yet suffer bout of Asian flu

The policy making waters become particularly treacherous when an economy may be nearing a turning point. Higher interest rates and a strong pound ought to have started to cause a slowdown in economic activity, according to conventional wisdom. But so far there has been precious little sign that the British consumer is anywhere near being bludgeoned into submission. This is the conundrum facing the Monetary Policy Committee as it meets tomorrow, amid speculation that its cosy unanimity on interest rates has begun to crack at last.

In November, City pundits wrongly guessed that the MPC would refrain from raising rates

because of the fallout from Asia in the London stock market. The Bank, mindful of the charge that easier money following the 1987 crash contributed to the explosion in inflation in the late eighties, ignored the stock market, looked purely at the domestic economy and raised rates.

A month later, evidence on the British economy is finely balanced but Asia demands to be taken more seriously. This alone might be enough to give MPC doves enough ammunition to stave off an interest rate rise before Christmas. The fulcrum of the Asian crisis has moved from the relatively small economies of Thailand and Malaysia to the key economies of South Korea and Japan. Despite an IMF rescue package for one and positive noises from Tokyo about tackling its banking crisis, the threat of exported deflation has become a great deal more real.

Pots and kettles

JUST when the directors of Lonrho might have been hoping for a period of peace and quiet, Mohamed Al Fayed has come charging onto the scene again. His latest misadventure to all the Lonrho directors is a fine attempt at fuelling the feud with former Lonrho boss, Tiny Rowland. Al Fayed wants the Institute of Chartered Accountants to investigate Lonrho's accounts. Somehow, pots and kettles come straight to mind.

Treatment withdrawn by Glaxo

The diabetes treatment withdrawn by Glaxo Wellcome after it was linked to six deaths was expected to have annual sales of about £250 million by the year 2000.

None of the 5,000 British diabetics who have used the drug since its UK launch two months ago has died from the severe kidney problems that troglitazone has caused in 147 patients in America and other countries. Glaxo Wellcome suggested that most of the problems had arisen in patients who had been taking the drug for at least three months. It has advised those taking the drug, marketed as Romozin, to consult their doctors.

Troglitazone was licensed from Sankey, the Japanese company that discovered the compound. The drug was regarded as a significant advance because it was able to reduce diabetics' dependence on insulin.

Sankey and Warner Lambert, its US marketing partner, launched the drug last March. By the end of October, an estimated 670,000 patients had taken it. Glaxo Wellcome had the marketing rights for Europe, South Africa and Israel, but it had yet to start selling the drug outside the UK.

Glaxo Wellcome said that there was as yet no explanation why the severity of the liver problems failed to show up in clinical trials.

Wm Hill sale

Brent Walker, the debt-laden leisure group, will tomorrow complete the £700 million sale of William Hill, its betting shop chain, to Nomura International enabling the company to be formally wound up. The disposal, which was announced in October, is expected to leave the group with a shortfall of about £400 million to £500 million, compared with its original £1.5 billion debt mountain. The banks are expected to appoint liquidators within two weeks.

Maybourn hit

SHARES of Maybourn, the florist products to fabric dyes group, yesterday closed at a five-year low, down 50p to 102½p, after the group gave warning that an autumn slump at Jackel, its baby food division, would push its profits below the £6.6 million expected for this year. Kevan Griffin has been dismissed as chief executive of the baby food arm and has agreed to a £100,000 payoff although severance details are still being debated.

Pension chiefs face punishment over mis-selling delay

By ANNE ASHWORTH AND CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the investor-protection body, is to acquire extensive powers to punish directors and others considered responsible for the delays in settling compensation for victims of pension mis-selling.

New rules will make life insurance salesmen and financial advisers individually responsible for their actions, making them subject to reprimands, fines and banishment from the industry for breaches of investor-protection laws.

Last month Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and the minister in charge of the pensions mis-selling review, said she wished to bar from the industry senior managers guilty of mis-selling.

In a letter sent to PIA member firms yesterday, Collette Bowe, the PIA chief executive, wrote: "Experience has shown that it is essential for a firm's

top management to commit itself to the review process and to make sure that this process is conducted on a timely basis and in an efficient manner."

The PIA is to introduce individual registration next year, obliging 80,000 directors and employees to apply for contracts to work in the investment business. At present, only PIA member firms must be authorised, not their workers. Observers believe that some applicants will inevitably fail to win registration contracts, obliging them to seek work in other fields and advancing the clean-up of the industry. Directors and executives of life offices, banks, independent financial advisers networks and firms with more than 26 advisers must have individual registration by May 18. The remainder must register by October 1.

Prudential, which has the most mis-selling cases, yesterday refused to say whether it had missed a second deadline for sorting out priority compensation cases. A spokesman said: "We have submitted our figures to the regulator, which will report in due course."

Prudential is regulated by the Securities and Investments Board, and will not be fined for pensions misdeeds.

Windsor Life, part of the Life Assurance Holding Company, yesterday said that it had met five weeks ahead of schedule, the Treasury target for solving 90 per cent of its priority cases.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders yesterday took its industry closer to full self-regulation as it extended a voluntary code of practice to 50,000 brokers selling home loans to the public. From April, they will have to disclose commission from lenders and their relationship with lenders.

Dialog to offer free services to investors

By SUSAN EMMETT AND FRASER NELSON

DIALOG CORPORATION, the online information company, is to offer some of its services free to armchair investors through a deal with Institutional Investor International (I3), the Website operator.

The venture, which was planned before MAID and Knight-Ridder Information merged to become Dialog, will give I3's 100,000 Internet users free access to headlines and summaries from 4,000 news sources.

The limited service, which will include share prices, will be freely available through I3's Internet site, www.i3.co.uk. Full articles will be available for a £1 charge, with the proceeds split between the two companies.

From February, the Website will offer real-time prices from London, New York and Nasdaq, fuelling a free sector which analysts say could challenge the lower end of the market held by the likes of Bloomberg and Reuters.

The enlarged Website should be complete within two weeks, when it will become the first service in the world to combine information about pensions, life insurance and stock market prices.

Dialog, which draws its customers almost exclusively from large institutions, hopes the move will give it access to small-time investors who may not be willing to pay the basic £6,000 annual subscription for its full service.

MAID's new subscriptions tailed off while it was discussing the merger, leading to a third-quarter pre-tax loss of £592,000 (£2.42 million loss), it said yesterday. Sales were £7.37 million (£5.18 million). The loss for the quarter was 0.33p (2.62p loss) per share.

Charge of £524,000 at Jennings

By DOMINIC WALSH

JENNINGS BROTHERS, the brewer and pub operator listed on the Alternative Investment Market, has taken a charge of £524,000 against its 1997 results after the collapse of negotiations to buy a rival pub company.

Trevor Green, managing director, declined to name the company, but M&C Report, an industry newsletter, identifies it as the Devonshire Pub Company.

In the year to September 30, Jennings Brothers reported a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.01 million, excluding exceptional, on turnover 12 per cent ahead at £18.29 million.

Earnings per share were 20.8p (16.3p). A final dividend of 4.75p, payable on February 13, makes 7.75p.

First-half profits arrive at Prism

By FRASER NELSON

LONDON commuters helped Prism Rail to return its first profit at the halfway stage, after a 5 per cent increase in passengers and a £2.7 million bonus from the franchising office.

The company, which runs the London to Southend and LTS "misery line" and the Liverpool to London WAGN line, lifted its average punctuality rate by 20 per cent in the six months to October 11, winning the extra payment on top of the £90 million subsidy that it receives.

Its two London franchises were the best performers in the group, delivering sales growth of 10 per cent — attributed to the growth in commuter traffic.

Prism's two Welsh franchises, Cardiff Railways and South Wales & West, lifted

their sales by around 7 per cent.

After a 2.6 per cent increase in rail fares, and an extra £840,000 from reducing the number of fare dodgers, overall passenger revenue rose 9 per cent to £135 million.

This left a pre-tax profit of £4.84 million (£549,000 loss) and a maiden interim dividend of 5p a share.

Prism has merged the offices for the Welsh franchises, closing the Swindon office. Its £20 million investment programme saw new ticket barriers put up at Barking station. The company plans to fit these in every one of its 25 stations within two years.

Prism is now on course to pay a total dividend of 17p for the year. This would net £1.27 million for the six former bus operators who set up the company last year.

Approaches made to Zettlers

By DOMINIC WALSH

ZETTERS, the pools, bingo and spot-the-hall group, yesterday said it had received "a number of approaches" in the wake of its strategy review.

At the annual meeting, in October, Paul Zetter, chairman, indicated that the company was seeking to "introduce new senior management and, possibly, new leisure assets", which analysts interpreted as a for sale sign. Yesterday, he said: "Whilst some [of the approaches] may prove to be of interest, it is too early to expand upon them."

Zettlers more than doubled pre-tax profits, to £1.05 million, in the half year to September 30 on turnover up 16 per cent, to £8.77 million. Earnings per share were 10.0p (5.1p). The interim dividend, due on March 4, is 5.5p (5.0p). Bingo made a £642,000 profit on turnover of £2.2 million.



ROY HILL, chief executive of Bath Press, which raised pre-tax profits from £1.6 million to £3 million in the six months to September 30 on sales up 57 per cent, at £34 million. Earnings rose 22 per cent to 1.04p, with the half-year dividend up from 0.16p to 0.19p. Mr Hill and the board said they were confident of a successful outcome to the current year. Operating margins rose from 9.2 per cent to 10 per cent.

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TransTec's focus on aerospace led to a contract to supply airframe parts for Tornados



The company has also enjoyed strong relationships with car companies such as BMW

How the Paymaster General banked a personal fortune

Chris Ayres profiles the minister who made a mint from business and is being taxed by controversy

For a man who can afford to work for nothing as the Paymaster General, and at the same time own luxury homes in Tuscany, Cannes and Park Lane in London, Geoffrey Robinson's income looks remarkably modest.

Most of the 59-year-old's wealth appears to come from his substantial shareholding in TransTec, the £175 million engineering company that he founded 16 years ago. His 7.2 per cent stake in the company is now worth more than £30 million. Mr Robinson — who received an interim dividend payment of £258,400 from TransTec last month — earns a salary of just £43,860 as an MP. That would hardly sustain the lifestyle that he now enjoys.

His expensive hobbies — which include collecting rare paintings with his wife Marie Elena, an Italian-born opera singer — may engender a little envy among his more financially challenged colleagues.

Given Mr Robinson's background, the current controversy over the £12 million offshore tax-haven trust fund of which he is a beneficiary is unlikely to give him sleepless nights.

After all, he has become numbered to accusations of champagne socialism during his career, and has resigned himself to being one of only a few Labour politicians with a business background — rather than reaching law or trade unionism. He is also used to dining with the sharks, having pulled off a multimillion-pound deal with the late Robert Maxwell six years ago.

Mr Robinson's career as a self-made tycoon began in 1981 when he founded TransTec, having gained several years' experience in senior positions in the automotive industry. In the 1970s, he had been financial controller at British Leyland, and at the age of 35 became the precocious chief executive of Jaguar Cars.

His double life as a politician began several years earlier when he worked as a research-

er for the Labour Party and for Harold Wilson's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. He finally became an MP — for Coventry North West — in 1976.

TransTec was at first called Transfer Technology Group, with Mr Robinson borrowing an estimated £100,000 from Joska Bourgeois — a family friend and a wealthy Belgian importer of Jaguar cars — to help to establish the business. Madame Bourgeois, who died three years ago, later set up the offshore trust fund that has caused the Government such a headache.

The original aim of Transfer Technology Group was to translate the best available academic research into practical engineering applications, with a particular emphasis on the aerospace industry. However, this aim quickly evolved into the transfer of fresh ideas and innovations over a wide spread of industries.

During the 1980s, as the business grew, Mr Robinson simultaneously held front-bench positions in Opposition for Science, Trade and Industry, and Regional Affairs. He was said to spend most of his days in a chauffeur-driven Jaguar surrounded by three mobile telephones, travelling between his company office and the House of Commons.

In the early 1990s Mr Robinson's business began to look vulnerable, as it was heavily reliant on the struggling European car market. Most companies were also suffering from the effects of recession.

However, Mr Robinson again demonstrated shrewd business judgment, making a string of successful acquisitions in the UK and overseas, while introducing a wider range of products that took the company's emphasis away from the automotive industry. At the time the *Daily Mail* said: "The City is right to suspect that most politicians are fools, but wrong to think all must be."

The company's manufacturing division went on to supply



As a young MP Geoffrey Robinson managed to find the time for politics and business

airframe products for Tornados, and to win contracts with Bosch, Daimler, General Motors and Mercedes-Benz. The automotive side of the business developed strong relationships with BMW and Rover, while Sony and Epson became major customers at its plastic and rubber division, making housings for television sets and other consumer electronic goods.

During the late 1980s Mr Robinson had also become a director of Central and Sheerwood, a publicly quoted industrial and property con-

glomerate chaired by Robert Maxwell, the publishing tycoon. In 1991 Transfer Technology staged a reverse takeover of Central, with Mr Maxwell selling his 27 per cent stake in the business back to the company only months before his death. Soon afterwards the merged entity shortened its name to TransTec.

TransTec suffered in the early 1990s from the so-called "Max Factor", even though it was growing at a furious rate, producing goods for everything from the aerospace to oil, food and pharmaceuticals indus-

tries. Profits jumped from £1 million in 1988 to £9.5 million in 1992.

The City was put off the company by the level of control that Mr Robinson had over the business — although such a dominant boss was not unusual for a company of TransTec's size — and its association with Mr Maxwell. The share price was also hit when details emerged of personal loans of up to \$1 million (£590,000) that Mr Robinson had made to companies later bought by TransTec. The company's shares continued to suffer,

more than halving in value to 45p from 1993 to 1994, as City analysts continued to produce negative research and the engineering sector became increasingly unfashionable. Eventually, TransTec released a profits warning, and Mr Robinson said that he would split his roles as chief executive and chairman.

Richard Carr, formerly of Tomkins, was appointed chief executive in November 1994 and began a fundamental reorganisation of the group, taking on Peter Summerfield and Tony Kirkman — both rivals for his job and heavyweights in the engineering sector — as divisional managing directors. Almost at once the business began to improve, and the share price started to recover. At 98p it is more than double its value in 1995.

Most analysts are now enthusiastic about the company. One says: "TransTec has had its pluses and minuses, but under its present management it's gone into its prosperous phase. The real improvements came in 1995 with Richard Carr. They reduced the cost base in key areas and brought in new elements of control which have stood them in good stead."

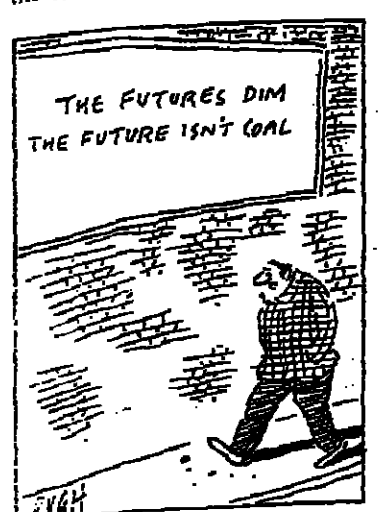
Another added: "We've only followed it since Richard Carr arrived and Geoffrey Robinson began to take a back seat. He really isn't involved in the day-to-day business now. I would say the company really had a turning point in 1995."

Although Mr Robinson is still a substantial shareholder in TransTec, he resigned from the board as a non-executive director when the Labour came to power to concentrate on his duties as Paymaster General, with a focus on public and private partnerships.

As TransTec's non-executive chairman, Mr Robinson earned only £41,000, but received a hefty £74,000 pension contribution. If his political career should come to an end tomorrow, it is unlikely that he would miss his MP's salary. The 30.4 million shares that he owns will almost guarantee him large regular payments in dividends, as will the income earned by his trust, and cash from the pension that he paid into when he was a company director. His status as TransTec's largest individual shareholder should allow him to live for many years to come the lifestyle to which he has become accustomed, with or without his position in the Government — something that could not be said for many MPs.

Accountable

A STRANGE shyness seems to have gripped Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire who so selflessly toils as our Paymaster General. Robinson must by now be wondering if the rewards of high office are worth the pain, and he has been hugely difficult to tie down since Friday. A colleague wondered then whether he would be attending today's launch for the individual savings account, the replacement for the Pep. On Friday the Treasury would not say. The question became rather more pressing after the weekend, what with Guernsey tax havens and mysterious Belgian multi-millionaires. Again, the Treasury stone-walled.

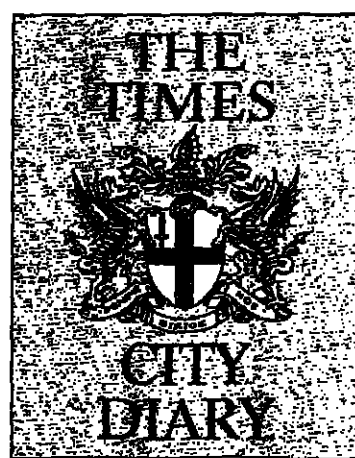


Last night the answer arrived. Yes, Robinson will be on hand to launch the account, hailed as "the people's Pep", as opposed to the Martian's Pep and the budgeter's Pep, I suppose. His sudden notoriety has at least secured a better attendance for today's event than the last time the Paymaster General held a full press conference, in the summer to re-launch the Private Finance Initiative. When only two journalists turned up. I only hope the questioning will not dwell too heavily on Robinson's own individual savings accounts.

THE new finance director of Britax has experience in the motor trade beyond the dreams of his fellow directors at the components group. Mark Ellmore joins from TI Group in the new year. A while back, in time for her 18th birthday, he bought his daughter Victoria a 1960 Morris Traveller in need of some work. As it turned out, a new frame, engine, gear-box and other essentials. The car was indeed ready in time for the girl's birthday — her 24th.

Full circle

A NEAT symmetry lies behind the arrival at Singer & Friedlander of Graham Hall as a director of corporate finance from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Hall had a client at DMG



called Lionheart, which makes bathroom items. Lionheart was, to put it bluntly, too small for DMG to bother with, and Hall suggested the company went to Singer & Friedlander. Hall kept in contact with his old client and heard great things of one Rory Johnstone, who took over his job advising Lionheart. He was so impressed that he poached Johnstone on behalf of DMG.

Now the wheel has turned all the way, and Hall has himself been poached by Singer & Friedlander. He says his move to a much smaller bank reflects a growing disenchantment at the way corporate finance is heading at the medium-sized merchant banks, influenced as they are by Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and their ilk, the huge, pan-global packages they offer and their concentration on big clients. "The Ameri-

cans are trying to dominate the scene, and the Europeans are trying to catch them up, and a lot of their UK franchise is disappearing as a result," says Hall. "Some of the companies that DMG looks after are not getting the service that they used to." The differing woes of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, NatWest Markets and Hambros only make this worse. "There's less competition in the middle market sector than there used to be."

ON THE day that some largely bogus research claims that three out of four motorists would support a reduction in the legal drink-drive limit, news reaches me of an ingenious way round the problem of getting home after a night in the pub from an estate in Oxfordshire. Today is the launch of the prospectus for a neighbourhood pub. The funds raised from the sale of shares in a public limited company to the 1,250 residents on the West Witney estate will be used to buy a plot of land and build the pub. The idea is that if enough of them invest in the scheme they will have a vested interest in visiting it, so ensuring its economic success. Best wishes to this mutual, self-help approach, but I have a feeling it is a little more difficult than it looks.

In the frame

THE City Corporation has become frustrated in its honest broker attempts to interest City capital in the British film industry. The City fathers stumped up £25,000 seed-

corn for the London Film Commission, launched to attract film makers to the capital as a whole, only to find that no one else can be bothered to support it. They now hope their efforts will at least persuade Hollywood to use the Square Mile as the location for future blockbusters. This might seem highly laudable, except no one has quite explained why it is a good thing, in economic terms or otherwise. Do we really want the streets clogged with all the clutter that film crews bring in their train, not to mention Napoleonic film directors, fleets of crashing, burning vehicles and spoilt super-egos sulking in their trailers? I only ask.

MARTIN WALLER



An everyday image in the City? Maybe — if film-makers roll in

MARKETING

Selling by phone can put a good name on the line

Companies are taking unnecessary risks as they rush to cash in on a growing acceptance by the UK public of doing business over the phone.

Eager to emulate the success of First Direct and Direct Line, businesses are opening call centres and free phone numbers at an alarming rate. But some are learning to their cost that failure to plan their telemarketing accurately can actually lose business.

Engaged tones, poorly trained staff and an inadequate number of operators continue to blight efforts fully to exploit a field that is set to grow 45 per cent over the next two years.

More significantly, bad telemarketing can undo all the hard work and money a company has invested in customer service and building its brand.

Even companies such as Tesco have recently come unstuck. Its new banking operation was swamped by calls to its helpline as customers rushed to open an account. The demand was so great that Tesco was forced to open another call centre and offer compensation to frustrated customers.

And, last week, Air Miles, the company offering travel incentives in exchange for points gained on loyalty schemes, also fell victim to an onslaught on its phone system. Although, experienced in this field, it was caught out and forced to open another call centre and to apologise to 2.5 million customers.

So why are companies still getting it wrong? Industry observers point to a dearth of skilled managers to run call centres and unwillingness by firms to invest in adequate training for staff in how to handle callers.

But, according to Martin Shields, vice-chairman of Sitec, regarded as the largest supplier of call centre services, the nub of the problem lies in the attitude of many companies towards telemarketing. "The issue of call handling isn't given enough consideration when a campaign is planned — it's often bolted on at the end," he said. "The bulk of the money is spent on the promotion."

Companies consistently fail to forecast how many calls a telemarketing initiative will prompt. Whether it is a promotion, a direct-response television commercial, a flyer or a customer helpline, an accurate forecast is necessary if sales are to be maximised. Failure to fore-

cast accurately will result in disaster. Tales of sales directors diverting telephone numbers to a mobile phone or an answering machine only to be swamped by calls are extreme examples of what can go wrong.

Telemarketing does not allow second chances. Research by The Henley Centre, the consumer consultancy, shows that as a result of a single badly handled call, 68 per cent of callers to a company would prefer not to do business with it again. More importantly, 62 per cent said that they would seek another company to buy from.

Companies are gambling with customer loyalty, says Neil Taylor, marketing director of BT Connections in Business, which handles telemarketing for 30 big UK clients. "You're putting the relationship with your customers on the line," he said. "If you get it right, then it can strengthen that relationship and increase their loyalty. But get it wrong, and you're in trouble."

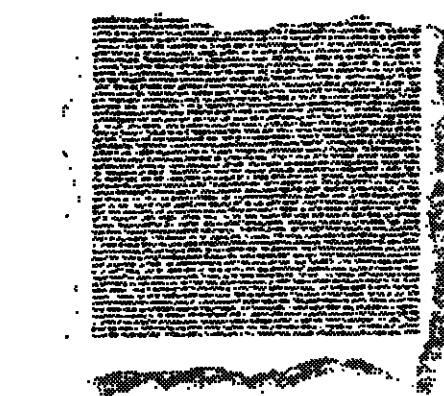
At £1 million, call centres are out of the reach of all but the richest companies. Although most business-to-business marketers choose to handle calls in-house, mainly because volumes are low and a high level of product knowledge is needed, many companies are choosing to contract an agency to handle call reception and fulfilment.

Mike Tully, of the Direct Marketing Association, says: "For a one-off campaign, it makes sense to look at outsourcing because your learning curve would be so steep that it'd only be towards the end of the campaign that you'd be beginning to learn all the techniques."

In-house call centres can, however, help a company to maintain that all-important one-to-one dialogue with clients. Thomas Cook Direct, the telemarketing arm of the travel agent, sees them as vital for gathering information on customers and building relationships with them.

John Morris, its operations manager, says: "We're able to identify, segment and then target people who frequently book a skiing holiday and make sure we have something that they want. It beats going into the high street and being confronted with so many choices, many of which are unsuitable for you."

JULIAN LEE



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RUSSELL 2000	1,200.00	+10.00	0.8%	1,200.00	+10.00
FTSE 100	10,850.00	+10.00	0.0%	10,850.00	+10.00
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Homage to a legend

CLASSICAL RECORDS: Richard Morrison introduces
The Times's Christmas CD offer: three unreleased
recitals by the great Russian pianist Sviatoslav Richter

He had something of the night in him, of that there is no doubt. Sviatoslav Richter always seemed the darkest of spirits: a colossus who made no concessions, tolerated no compromise, sought no easy fame, exuded no spurious charm, indulged in no razzle-dazzle. Audiences at his recitals sometimes felt like intruders into private meditation. No journalist came close to piercing the granite façade that he erected around his persona.



Richter: keyboard giant

Some of the mystique surrounding him can be easily explained. His appearance, massive and stone-faced, was dauntingly sinister. He sometimes didn't turn up to concerts, and when he did he often gave the impression of being distressed by appearing in public. "We live in an age of voyeurs and nothing is more fatal for music," he said, by way of enigmatic explanation for his decision to play recitals illuminated only by a small

table-lamp, so that audiences peered through the dark at what seemed to be a ghoul from an early horror film.

For Western audiences, too, there was added mystery in the fact that he was known only by reputation until 1960. Born in the Ukraine in 1915, he was a repatriate at the Odessa Opera at the age of 15. Later he studied in Moscow with Heinrich Neuhaus, who made the famous remark that defined Richter's supreme gift: he had the ability, Neuhaus said, to play epic music as if "it seemed to lie before him like an immense landscape, seen with incredible clarity as if with the eyes of a great hawk".

Shortly afterwards Richter experienced the brutality of the Soviet system. His father fell victim to a Stalinist purge; his mother fled to New York, not to see her son again for 20 years. Richter himself was confined to the Soviet bloc.

One may guess how all this shaped his musicmaking. But Richter never wore his personal history like a badge, and much of his playing — particularly in Bach, Mozart and Beethoven — had a classical restraint. The three CDs that we offer here — recorded at Festival Hall recitals in 1979 and at Aldeburgh in 1966 — give a wonderful idea of his magisterial style.

The first (TN101) is all Schubert: the Sonatas D575, D625 and D664. Richter revolutionised performance of Schubert's piano music, revealing its majestic sweep. That can be heard, too, on the second disc (TN102), which includes the tragic A Minor Sonata, D784, the *Huttenbrenner Variations*, and Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*.

The final CD (TN103) shows Richter's huge range. Here is Mozart's Sonata in G, Tchaikovsky's *The Seasons*, Rachmaninov's *Etudes Tableaux*, Scriabin's *Black Mass Sonata* and Prokofiev's Sonata No 4. It's a programme that would make most pianists blanch. Richter delivers it with astonishing intellectual and technical power.

All these recordings, from BBC Radio 3's archives, were approved by Richter before he died. None has been released before. They are testaments to one of the most compelling musical minds of our time.

Star wars made simple

Daniel Rosenthal meets Ian McDiarmid, master of the Almeida and the Universe

Strange business, asking Darth Vader's boss about the finer points of subsidised theatre. As an actor, his face hidden beneath four hours of make-up, Ian McDiarmid was *Return of the Jedi's* demonic Emperor Palatine, a role to which he returns in the forthcoming *Star Wars* sequel. As joint artistic director of the Almeida Theatre in Islington, he shares the helm at one of the country's most important venues. Hence the need for questions about lottery funding, corporate sponsorship and the Death Star.

First, however, comes the Almeida's Russian December. Part One of this double whammy requires McDiarmid to shake and howl as the mayor in *The Government Inspector*, directed by the other half of the top brass, Jonathan Kent.

Gogol's classic 1842 comedy about Klestakov (Tom Holander), the opportunistic clerk who fleeces the corrupt burghers of a remote town by allowing them to mistake him for a sleaze-hunter from St Petersburg, has been rendered into broad Scots in a hilarious translation by John Byrne, author of *Tutti Frutti*.

"Jonathan and I felt the play's provincial character would work well in Scots," explains McDiarmid, as mild-mannered as Gogol's mayor is irascible. "John's writing has a wonderful vulgarity, and vulgarity is a great asset because the play is not psychologically dense: there is no subtext to these wild characters."

The Government Inspector received its second production at the Maly Theatre, Moscow, which brings us to Part Two of the double bill. Last April, after a sell-out run of *Ivanov* in Islington, Ralph Fiennes (the eponymous hero), McDiarmid (the insufferable bore, Kosykh) and the rest of Kent's cast gave four performances at the Maly — the first time Chekhov's play had been staged in English on its home turf.

At the beginning of *Ivanov*



Ian McDiarmid: Sunday's Channel 4 documentary follows him and *Ivanov* to Moscow

Goes To Moscow, an enjoyable documentary about the British Council/AT&T-sponsored trip to be shown on Channel 4 next Sunday at 9pm, McDiarmid suggests that this "coals to Newcastle" expedition is "theatricality gone mad, almost surreal". But it turned out, he says now, to be "exciting and moving".

"The Russians were fascinated by David Hare's translation and how, in combination with Jonathan's direction, it brought out *Ivanov's* farcical elements. Some found that revelatory, others said we were cheapening Chekhov."

In London *Ivanov* had been a phenomenon, with hundreds camping overnight outside the

Almeida to secure a ticket and a glimpse of Fiennes. The recipe was the same as for the other most notable successes of McDiarmid's and Kent's eight years at the theatre. *No Man's Land* with Paul Edingford, *Medea* with Diana Rigg (both 1992) and last year's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with Rigg and David Suchet, were also revivals (newly translated if a translation was required) of works by major dramatists. Using a phrase that becomes something of a refrain, McDiarmid insists these triumphs are "really very simple".

"We only choose plays we're absolutely passionate about. Actors, designers and techni-

cians respond to that commitment. Secondly, because the company owns the site, the theatre belongs to everybody who works here. That creates a family atmosphere which actors enjoy."

There have been disappointments. Some of the new plays premiered at the Almeida have underperformed at the box office, and in 1991 McDiarmid, an award-winning (if temporarily lapsed) director, made "a big mistake" by acting in as well as directing *Lulu*.

Hits and misses are made possible by the Almeida's "fabulous" development team, which attracts £550,000 a year in private and corporate dona-

tions to complement the £450,000 public subsidy. Nevertheless, the finances remain as "simple" as the artistic policy. "If two successive shows don't sell at least 75 per cent of their seats, we're in crisis. If three in a row don't, we're on the edge of bankruptcy."

Their local MP, one Chris Smith, has been "very supportive" in the past, but McDiarmid knows "there would be no point hanging on his table and demanding preferential treatment", either for increased subsidy or on the current £2.9 million lottery bid to improve the theatre and purchase and renovate the dilapidated rehearsal rooms.

The Almeida's record in persuading Rigg, Fiennes and Co to work for the Equity minimum of £225 a week was remarkable even before they announced their first productions for 1998: Juliette Binoche in Pirandello's *Naked*, Kevin Spacey in *The Iceman Cometh* and Liam Neeson as Oscar Wilde in David Hare's *The Judas Kiss*.

West End producers would pawn a close relative to sign up one member of that trio, never mind all three. Yet McDiarmid quietly explains that Liam, Juliette and Kevin all saw *Ivanov*, loved the 300-seat auditorium's intimacy between actors and audience, and all wanted to get back on stage after years of film work: "It was relatively simple."

McDiarmid the actor invariably invests his characters with immense intelligence, be it benign (Einstein in Terry Johnson's *Insignificance*, a forensic professor in *Gorky Park*), or monstrous (the title role in *Volpone*, or the psychotic who tried to murder Inspector Morse).

He is not at liberty to reveal whether Palatine (100 years old in *Return of the Jedi*, closer to McDiarmid's own 50 in the prequel) will add to his gallery of villains. Draconian confidentiality clauses mean he can say only that filming with George Lucas at Leavesden Studios in Hertfordshire over the summer was "extraordinary". And he offers a striking observation.

"There was a wonderful concentration of purpose on set. Lucas runs a relatively small operation, with everyone utterly determined to get everything right. Financially it's nothing like the Almeida, but those principles are not unlike ours." *Star Wars* in Leavesden, star draws in Islington. You could say the Force is with him.

● The Government Inspector is at the Almeida, London N1 0J7 359 4404 from Thursday to Jan 31, and the Kings Theatre, Edinburgh (0131 220 4349) Feb 3-7

A little too lean

WHAT would a sparrow riot or a sparrow stampede sound like? After sharing an afternoon with scores of small children in the Birmingham Hippodrome, I can tell you. Their chirruping became dementia as the curtain rose on the latest play by our leading tot-dramatist, David Wood. It was a heartening reminder of the excitement that live theatre can generate. I wish Wood had added as much as he might to the book Dick King-Smith published in 1983 and Chris Noonan turned into a hugely successful movie a decade later.

If you own a child or a video, you will not be much surprised by Wood's plot. Babe the affable piglet is won in a contest by Farmer Hogget, much to the delight of his wife, who bumbles about salivating at the prospect of roasts, chops, black pudding and whatnot. But can the most unsentimental yeoman really total a porker who not only thwarts rustlers and chases away wild dogs but, instructed by a maternal collie, becomes



expert at marshalling sheep? He can't, and is rewarded when *One Man and His Dog* is triumphantly transformed into *One Man and His Hog*.

The children in the audience became quiet and attentive, as was only fitting since the play is partly a homily about politeness. The point is that the sheep, who resent the dogs' bullying, are lulled into obedience by Babe, who asks them how they feel and if they'd mind helping him. The piece is concealed propaganda for good industrial relations and a reformed class system. If the poor workers fret at traditional managers, the answer may be to import someone from an unlikely background to try a soft-soap approach. Maybe Wood's Whirligig Company should take *Babe* to Dagenham the next time a tricky pay-round threatens.



Mary-Ann Coburn, Karen Briffett and Anthony Pedley

Wood's production is moving for seven weeks to Manchester's Wythenshawe Forum, then Truro, Belfast, Hackney and a dozen other places. It will doubtless give pleasure, thanks to Anthony Pedley's doughty Hogget, Judy Wilson's genial Ma Hogget, and Karen Briffett's not-excessively-cute Babe in his/her not-outrageously-twee

pink padding. But I wish that the singalong in which kids and critics collectively chanted the sheep's secret password — "I'm not so stupid as I look" — were not the only distinctively theatrical ingredient. Imaginatively, the show does what *Babe* himself doesn't. It thinks.

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If you go down to the wood today...

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Two new London shows bring the most sinister undertones to rural scenes. Richard Cork plunges into the undergrowth

If you go down to the woods today...

New British art is obsessed, to an overwhelming extent, by gritty urban life. When rural references do appear in contemporary work, they are more likely to be troubled than lyrical.

In the past, British painters were often at their best when passionately engaged with the landscape at its most sublime. But the Romantic ecstasy of Constable or Turner is far removed from two impressive new exhibitions, where the countryside serves only as a starting-point for images filled with tension, unease and a feeling of dislocation.

Take Matt Collishaw, whose haunting show at the Lisson Gallery starts with a roomful of woodland photographs. Seen as if through a spyhole, these large circular views lead us into picturesque, sun-dappled glades. In each picture, a uniformed schoolgirl lies among the foliage. They might be mistaken at first for adolescents who, like Lewis Carroll's Alice, simply fell asleep on a country stroll. Or they might be day-dreaming in a sylvan dell.

We soon realise, however, that something has gone wrong. Books are scattered pell-mell among the leaves, along with other, more sinister tubes and pots. Despite their clean white socks and school ties, these girls might be victims. Suddenly, the photographs' circular format becomes alarmingly reminiscent of a rifle's view-finder. And the

figures' stillness grows more ominous, suggesting that they are easy prey for anyone with predatory intentions.

What is going on here? Near the centre of the gallery, Collishaw has placed a tyre festooned with plants and flowers. They ought to evoke the pleasures of a harmless ramble. But among the ferns lurk an old-fashioned camera and, more sinister still, a canister labelled Purified Butane Lighter. These girls have been sniffing solvents. They might well be addicts, which would explain their willingness to put themselves at risk.

The camera indicates that a voyeur has already been at work. So the lush, enticing locations in the photographs look increasingly like the scenes of a crime — just as the flower-bedecked setting of another photograph, where three grieving infants stare down at a lifeless bird, illustrates the nursery rhyme *Who Killed Cock Robin?*

A Victorian funerary angel reclines next to one of the girls, increasing the probability that their death is near. And Collishaw makes them appear even more vulnerable by specifying their first names in the titles of the works. Clara, Emily and Kathleen: we are able to identify them, just as newspaper reports of woodland murders might distress us by revealing who the anonymous bodies really are.

Before each name, though, Collishaw has added the words *The Awakening of Conscience*. Devotees of the Pre-



A detail from Matt Collishaw's 1997 *Who Killed Cock Robin?*: an ostensibly calm pastoral image carries typically disturbing overtones of childhood innocence endangered

Raphaelites will doubtless find themselves remembering Holman Hunt's once-notorious painting *The Awakening Conscience*, where a kept woman in St John's Wood yearns for redemption.

But the girls in Collishaw's photographs show no sign of wanting to change their lives. They seem as embroiled in addiction as the video image of a stripper, projected on a large screen next door. Eyed by male onlookers standing in a shadowy circle around her, she revolves and exposes her body to their hungry gaze. Cleverly made from 20 still photographs morphed together, she seems doomed to repeat the same pose for as long as her audience remains ogling. Her features seem masked and expressionless.

But at least she remains upright and controlled, unlike the figures in the upstairs gallery. Here, synthetic lotus flowers float on "lakes" lined with plastic. They look like the decor in a kitsch hotel foyer or brothel, and the naked bulbs dangling over them add to the melancholy air of seediness. At the heart of the biggest flower in each pond is a small projected video of a prostitute touting for business on the street. Toting along in thigh-length boots, they eye the cars cruising past. But they are barely able to stand, and one of them collapses in a stupor probably induced by drugs. Once again, Collishaw discloses their identity in his titles: Carmen, Charlene, Keiko, Leticia and Sandy. The names increase the sense of wretchedness, and the cloying prettiness of the lotuses serves only to heighten the women's degradation.

So the rural references in this show end up illuminating the urban reality Collishaw

has explored in earlier works on violence and homelessness. In this respect, his work has an unexpected kinship with Rose Finn-Kelcey's absorbing and provocative exhibition at Camden Arts Centre. Immediately we enter the eye-battering brightness of the main gallery, agricultural images seem to confront us. Five plump yellow sacks stand near by, fit for containing potatoes, earth or corn. And beyond them, an enormous farm gate stretches across the room, its reflected whiteness shimmering in the highly polished floor.

The nearer we approach them, though, the less bucolic these objects become. The "sacks" turn out to be made of rubber, silicone and foam. Hard and bulging, they look more like blown-up versions of

plastic toys than anything found in a field. The gate is, if anything, even more removed from farming reality. Spotless and streamlined under the gallery lights, its clinical surface has been coated with car spray-paint.

All these tantalising images arise from Finn-Kelcey's own divided experience. Although she has lived in London for the past 30 years, her childhood was spent in the country. It shaped her imagination at a formative stage, and explains why she now attempts to explore the friction in what she calls "the space between the rural and the urban". Hence the unclassifiable character of the works on view here. They seem to transcend their agricultural ori-

gins. But nothing quite prepares us for the titles Finn-Kelcey has given them. The sacks are called *Souls*, and their companion is *The Pearly Gate*. So maybe we are presented here with an ironic vision of heaven — or rather, the tension-ridden place where the deceased finally discover if they have gained access to eternal bliss. The sacks are, after all, still some distance from the daunting, monumental gate. But at least the gate stands ajar, giving a qualified optimism to the work as a whole.

All the same, Finn-Kelcey's subversiveness should not be underestimated. In the next room, a tufted wool rug lies on a steeply sloping support. Suspended between ground and ceiling, it bears a vastly enlarged image of a 1,000-lire

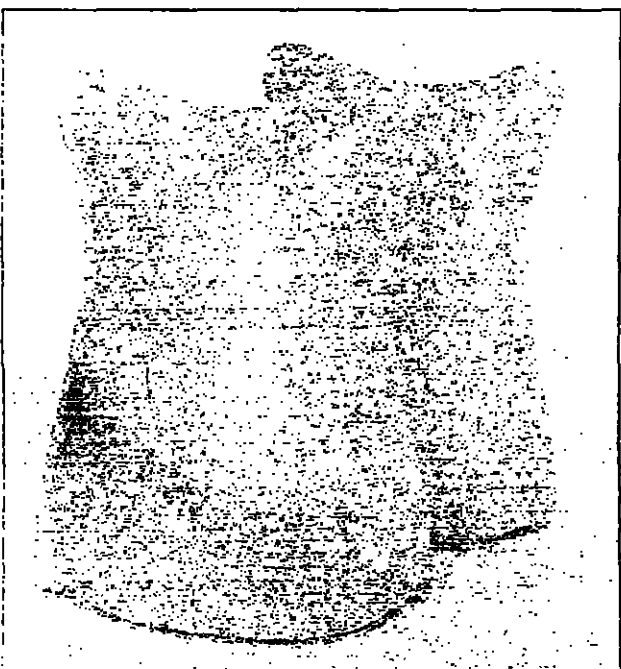
Vatican airmail stamp. A heavily bearded God, the Father dominates the design, illuminated by a halo and clasping a quill pen. Probably derived from a painting in the Vatican's collection, He appears to float on a cloud. But the franking marks undulating across the stamp resemble waves, and lend Him a nautical air. Hence Finn-Kelcey's mischievous decision to give the deity an eyepatch, transforming Him into a pirate.

The final gallery returns us to the farmyard, but the spiritual dimension refuses to be ousted altogether. Painted white, this long and lofty space could scarcely be more pristine. The entire floor has, however, been covered in deep layers of oat straw. So have the great arched windows, ensuring that the traffic-clotted

Finchley Road is sealed from sight. Rich in texture, colour and smell alike, the bristling straw turns the room into a warm, womb-like shelter. It invites us to lie down in it, and forget about gallery-going altogether. We might even fantasise about lolling in a real barn, soothed by its contents' comforting presence.

One end wall is left free of straw, so that the constellation of black dots punctuating its white surface stands out with maximum force. They suggest stars flickering in a sky devoid of city pollution, encouraging us to contemplate an unfathomable cosmos far beyond the fertile and sustaining earth.

● Matt Collishaw at the Lisson Gallery (0171-734 2730) until Dec 19. Rose Finn-Kelcey at Camden Arts Centre (0171-435 2643) until Dec 31



Rose Finn-Kelcey's *Souls* turn out to be sinister sacks

AROUND THE GALLERIES

■ **ALTHOUGH** Miroslaw Balka continues to work with a formal quietness, he has introduced a more visceral set of physical associations. Wooden wall boards flap open like a raw saloon-bar door, but a wet, stuffed sausage shape directly below on the floor brings in a wilfully different element. The material he uses is somehow less heavy, less transformed from one thing to another. Cuffs, feathers, stirrups, coffins and an empty mirror are alluded to in the simplest fashion. The work seems less autonomous, demanding a reciprocal audience involvement.

London Projects, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (0171-734 1723) until Jan 17

■ **THE** latest painting from Jason Brooks, a series of seven works in acrylic on canvas and paper done in the last year, have a serious virtuoso air. The large black-and-white paintings manage to look exactly like the black-and-white photographs of artist friends from which they came. The people stare straight out, the reflection of the camera caught in the pupil of each eye. The pictures do not benefit from being shown together: any individuality wanes. Familiar questions about the role of the photograph in painting, however, certainly rush back.

Ennville, 6 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 6440) until Jan 17

■ **IN THE** week that *The Borrowers* hits our cinema screens, the German artist Gregor Schneider brings his own more threatening artistic equivalent to Sadie Coles's gallery. On a video projected in a dark space the viewer is taken on a meandering and disorientating hand-held film journey through the bowels of the artist's own house or place within a place. The hint of muffled fear comes out from this hinterland of real and constructed space between walls and under floors. It is difficult to move the eye properly, to get any real overview or gain control. Every now and then a grunt, a natural sound, breaks the physical concentration.

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The survey also reveals that lawyers working in a bank's legal department tend to earn less than their colleagues who work as lawyers on the trading floor. The latter are considered to play an active part in revenue generation, and are given a more commercial role. This trend away from the purely legal role is interesting. Banks are finding a more varied role for their lawyers, and the distinction between lawyer and banker is becoming blurred.

Stuart Morton

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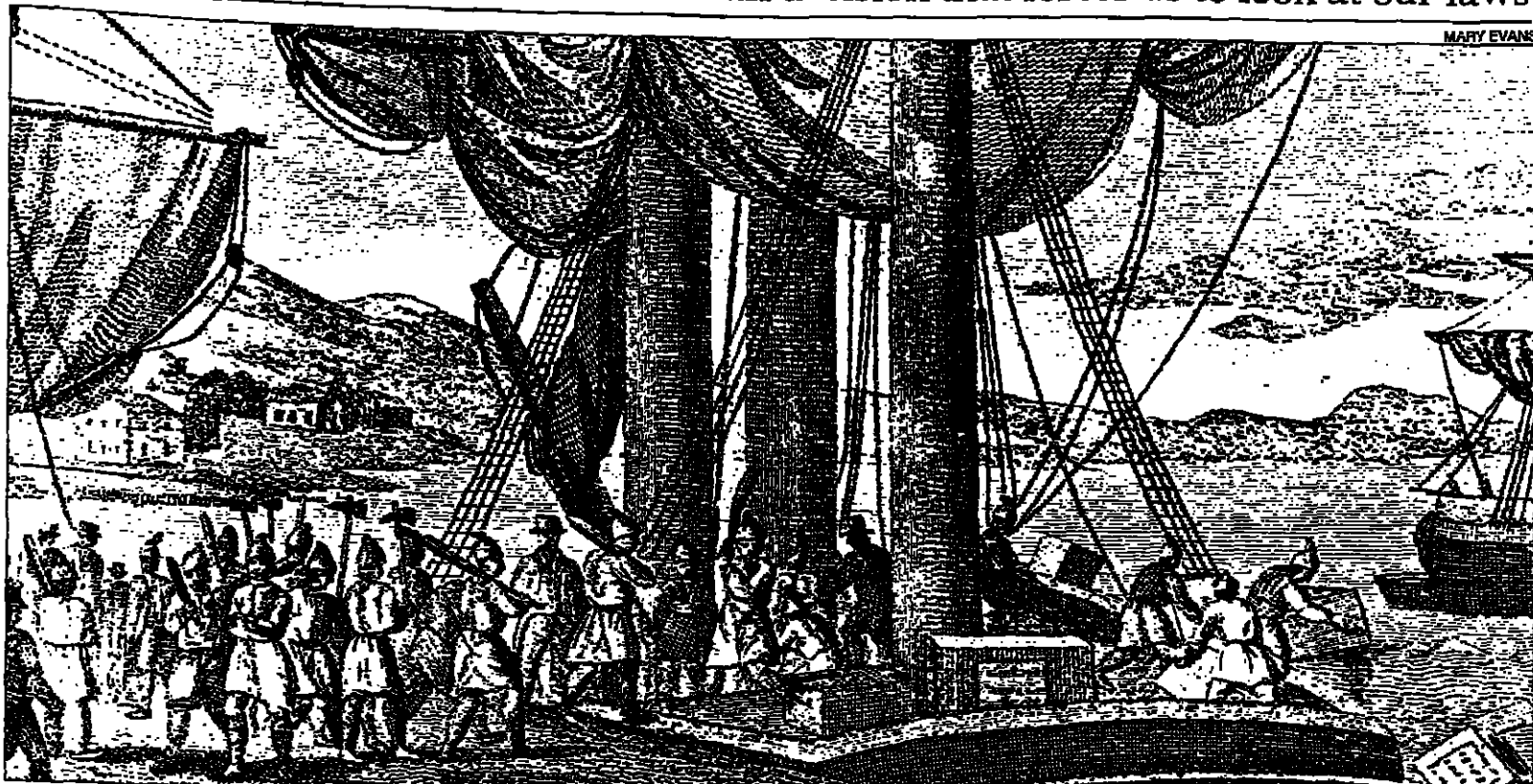
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LAW

Mark Stephens reports on an American decision that forces us to look at our laws



Boston Harbour 1773: the destruction of tea cargoes in protest against English tax laws. Today the libel laws of the two countries are worlds apart

Throwing libel overboard

More than 200 years after the Boston Tea Party, English authority has again been thrown overboard.

The US Maryland State Appeals Court, asked to enforce routinely an English libel judgment, has refused to order the American defendant to pay the \$416,000 awarded to the plaintiff by the UK court.

Its reasons? The principles of English libel law fail to measure up to basic human rights standards and are "repugnant" to public policy and the constitutional ideal of free speech.

The action was brought by Vladimir Telnikoff, a Russian immigrant, against Vladimir Matusevich, a compatriot journalist, over the latter's angry response to Telnikoff's article on alleged race bias in the BBC's recruitment of Rus-

sian journalists. Both pieces had been published in *The Daily Telegraph*.

The final outcome of numerous hearings up to the House of Lords was a judgment in Telnikoff's favour and, in April, 1994, a normal request was made for its enforcement against the defendant, now working for Radio Free Europe in Washington.

The Maryland court refused. It held that the two published pieces were simply "rhetorical hyperbole" and part of "vigorous public debate"; the English laws in general and this judgment in particular ignored the guarantee of the free flow of ideas and opinions of matters of public concern, constitutionally protected by the First Amendment.

Such fundamental rights should in theory apply to us as indi-

viduals, regardless of the State in which we live.

The UK, traditionally, has taken no account of such liberal ideas. In 1774 Lord Mansfield said: "Whatever a man publishes, he publishes at his peril." That premise still underpins contemporary libel law in England and Wales and while American libel law becomes more refined and evolves in a vibrant and responsive manner, our tort remains an archaic, blunt instrument.

This is well demonstrated in the recognition in America of the discrepancy between private persons and public officials or figures, providing more accessible recourse for the former while ensuring increased First Amendment protection for the defence in the case of the latter.

English law, however, provides little protection for the

open exchange of ideas unless the defendant can establish a defence on the narrow ground of qualified privilege. His state of mind and conduct are irrelevant and "an honest belief" in the truth of the publication provides no defence.

A defamatory statement is presumed false unless and until the defendant proves otherwise. And, if the defendant pleads truth but fails to prove it, the damages awarded to the plaintiff will be increased.

By contrast, the US plaintiff must prove falsity or malice, and in most other non-commonwealth countries a plaintiff cannot claim damages without proving "actual injury" to his reputation and negligence on the part of the publisher of the statement.

It is precisely such presumption in favour of the plaintiff in England, twinned with what in the past have been astronomical damages awards, that gives rise to the chilling effect of English libel law, and can be held partly to blame for the reluctance to expose wrongdoing and corruption and the suppression of the dissemination of information.

The Maryland court has declared our libel law repugnant to the American system. We should also find it unacceptable that a libel plaintiff does not have to make out his own case because the full weight of presumption of guilt falls on the defendant — the one inexplicable exception to our rules of judicial process.

The Matusevich decision might be seen simply as a local annoyance to the (as yet) unsatisfied plaintiff. But it heralds more fundamental changes in the UK libel laws. We should be proud that London is the libel capital of the world. But question the reasons for it.

The UK has published a Bill of Rights to entrench the European Convention on Human Rights.

The fundamental principle of free speech, a central convention article will be codified in the UK and a garrulous but honest defendant will have a legitimate counter to the heavily weighted presumptions in favour of libel plaintiffs in this country.

A re-examination of our libel laws and fundamental freedoms is therefore long overdue. I do not condone a shift to blind support for media defendants. But a subtle move from the game show of findings by celebrity-sectored juries, ready to bite the hand of the media with the same hypocrisy with which that hands feeds them, could lead to a more acceptable middle ground.

We should be proud that London is the libel capital of the world. But question the reasons for it.

● The author is senior partner of Stephens Innocent.

Give generously for free counsel

When the Fool tells King Lear that "the breath of an unfree'd lawyer" is of no value, the King agrees that "nothing can be made out of nothing". Today is the 25th anniversary celebration of the birth of the Free Representation Unit (FRU), a scheme which has demonstrated that lawyers can and do represent clients without fees, to the substantial advantage of them both, and to the benefit of the legal system.

FRU was founded in 1972 by a group of Bar Finals students concerned to provide assistance at courts and tribunals to people who would otherwise lack legal representation. From the modest beginnings of student idealism, FRU now handles more than 1,600 cases a year. The representatives are mainly student and pupil barristers, trained to assist the public by conducting cases before tribunals in the contexts of employment law, social security and welfare law, immigration law, and at Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. FRU has been a charity since 1987. It now employs five permanent staff to administer the scheme, which works through referrals from bodies such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Law Centres.

FRU has become the largest single provider of representation *pro bono publico* (for the good of the public) in the United Kingdom. It acts for more than 50 per cent of all represented applicants in London industrial tribunals. The value of the work is recognised at all levels: clients who would otherwise be unrepresented benefit from legal advice and assistance; tribunals are protected from the time-consuming task of dealing with litigants in person; and young lawyers learn lessons in advocacy, human relations and case management which cannot be taught in the classroom.

In his message to FRU on its anniversary, Tony Blair has rightly paid tribute to its "impressive record of service". As the Prime Minister has emphasised, for many people "tribunals will be their only experience of justice in action" and the cases are of enormous importance to them. By helping to ensure that those with cases before tribunals have their claims properly argued, FRU is doing work of great value to the integrity of the legal system.

There are other excellent *pro bono* schemes involving lawyers. For many years, several solicitors and barristers have represented in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council defendants who are on death row in various Caribbean states. Many other lawyers regularly represent, without a fee, impecunious clients whose cases would otherwise go unheard, or devote themselves to repre-

senting convicted clients in whose innocence they believe. In an important commercial case in the Court of Appeal in 1996, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, complimented the counsel and solicitor acting without a fee for an impecunious client, and expressed "the hope that their example may inspire others in a similarly public-spirited manner".

Pro bono work is an obligation on a profession, particularly one which continues to enjoy monopoly rights to provide legal services in the higher courts. The particular value of the FRU scheme is that it provides a systematic service in tribunals that decide issues of much importance to the welfare of individuals, but where the State has declined to grant legal aid. Of course, the Government should be encouraged to fund effective representation in tribunals, as in courts, but unless and until that happy day arrives, the Bar has a duty to assist those whose claims would otherwise not be properly argued.

The excellent work carried out by FRU costs money to administer: about £150,000 a year, astonishingly good value at less than £100 a case. FRU depends on funding from the Bar Council and the Inns of Court, and individual covenants from barristers and their chambers. The FRU finances are not in a healthy state. It has instituted an anniversary appeal, which deserves the support of all members of the Bar.

As the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct explain, a lawyer "should render public interest legal service". This obligation may be discharged by

providing professional services at no fee (or at a reduced fee), by other voluntary service within the legal system, or "by financial support for organisations that provide legal services to persons of limited means". Busy lawyers should meet their obligations through their chequesbook.

In *Gulliver's Travels* Jonathan Swift criticised advocates as people "bred up from their youth in the art of proving by words multiplied for the purpose that white is black, and black is white, according as they are paid". Lawyers are entitled to regard Swift's satire as unjustified in one respect: they are prepared to exercise their skills of advocacy without payment. In honour of FRU's birthday, lawyers should make the financial contribution necessary to ensure that FRU can continue to promote the interests of the poor, the legal education of young barristers, and the reputation of the legal profession.

● FRU, 1st floor, 40-51 Bedford Row, London WC1, 0171-831 0692. The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

END OF THE EIGHTIES BONANZA

THE DAYS of "jackpot" libel damages of the 1980s are over, according to a recent survey by the media law firm Biddle & Co. Frances Gibb writes. It shows that libel damages have fallen dramatically over the decade, and that top awards are now between £50,000 to £125,000, compared with more than £500,000 a few years ago.

Judges now take a tough line in setting guidelines to bring awards into line with personal injury damages. They also have power to reduce jury awards on appeal and ensure that — as under European law — damages are proportionate to the harm suffered. David Hooper, head of the media law department at Biddle & Co, said: "Enormous awards to soap-opera stars are definitely a thing of the past."

Even if juries do award big sums, they are certain to be reduced on appeal to levels in line with personal injury awards in the wake of a ruling by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, in 1995 that this was the appropriate benchmark.

Mr Hooper added: "It was considered objectionable that a relatively trivial libel could result in a larger award than for a loss of a limb. So even where large awards have been made recently, you find that

afterwards, the parties are settling for far less because they know that the amounts will be cut on appeal."

In a case brought by Elinor John against Mirror Group Newspapers last year, damages of £350,000 were cut to £75,000 for a not very grave libel about whether the pop star was suffering from bulimia.

In another recent case, the Court of Appeal reduced £115,000 damages to £55,000 to a businessman for allegations in a Sunday newspaper about his activities in Moscow.

The survey is based on 86 High Court awards (mostly libel but including a few for slander). Where an award was reduced on appeal, the final figure is used.

Duncan Lamont, another media solicitor at the firm, said that despite the guidelines now given to juries he did not think that people would be deterred from pursuing libel actions. "A sum of £100,000 tax free is still a lot of money," he added, "and in these cases people do feel genuinely very upset and hurt by the things that have been said about them." A new fast-track defamation procedure likely to come into force by next year could also drive down awards.

New attack on CPS

A CROWN Prosecution Service policy of offering prosecuting counsel "uneconomic" fees in serious cases such as rape is leading to an imbalance in the quality of prosecuting and defence counsel, according to James Hunt, QC.

In December's *Counsel*, the leader of the Midlands and Oxford Circuit claims that the public and the victims of crime would be "appalled" if they realised how much less was being invested in seeking the convictions of rapists than in seeking to defend them.

Mr Hunt has sent Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, figures compiled from the data provided by several sets on his circuit, which, he claims, demonstrate that "on average, defence counsel receive 82 per cent more in fees than prosecuting counsel".

Court win
SOUTHWARK Crown Court and Bedfordshire magistrates' courts have become the first courts to be awarded a

Charter Mark, the award for excellence of service to the public.

Southwark, a 14-courtroom centre dealing with a range of criminal cases, has launched several initiatives, including refurbishing public areas to segregate witnesses from defendants, welcoming new jurors and sometimes giving them guided tours in advance, a new reception desk and a video room so that lawyers can view any video evidence before a hearing.

Family friend

FAMILY LAW is, it could said, 75 years old: Professor Peter Bromley, the founding father of family law, last weekend celebrated his 75th birthday.

Bromley's Family Law — the family law text book — is in its eighth edition, and the ninth is due next year.

Butterworths is bringing out *Family Law Towards the Millennium* (£39.95), a collection of essays in honour of the Professor.

Cover stars

AN exhibition of the work of artists who have illustrated the front covers of the *New Law Journal* over the past eight years is being held by the magazine, with the law firm Collyer Bristow.

The exhibition runs until



Detail from Andy Lovell's cover for *New Law Journal*

December 4 and all works are for sale. Ideal Christmas presents.

● Details: Harriette McGinlay, 0171-242 7363.

No pain, no gain?

DID Linklaters & Paines forget to tell its partners that it was taking Saatchi and Saatchi's advice and dropping the "B Paines"? To a background noise of much laughter, one of the switchboard operators tried to explain: "We are Linklaters but some of the partners do not know it yet. I am being diplomatic here, but we are not allowed to correct the partners when they get it wrong."

The firm's marketing department says that the name Linklaters is used for marketing purposes but the "B Paines" is used when billing clients. No wonder the partners find it hard to drop the full name.

SCRIVENOR

● *Women Against Rape* writes in to correct its statistics (Law, November 18): the group says that 25 per cent of recorded — not reported — rapes resulted in conviction in 1985 and less than 10 per cent in 1996.

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Lawyer David McIntosh, left, defending his profession against Professor Adrian Zuckerman's claims in *The Times*. Right, Lord Woolf

No win, no fee, no solution

Adrian Zuckerman
on the flaws in
reform of legal aid

The Lord Chancellor is right to seek to reform legal aid. The provision of services at public expense can be justified on the basis of equality. But legal aid does not promote equality, because it gives litigants access to justice which is denied to most taxpayers. It is as if expensive medical treatment were offered at public expense to the poor, when it was beyond the reach of most ordinary people.



A vital court service needs cash to survive, writes Paula Davies

Wanted: government aid for witness group

Playing his namesake, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Mayor of Dudley, raised funds for a Witness Support Service in his local magistrates' court. Started on November 3 with 16 volunteers, it was thanks to the £16,000 he raised that the service has got off the ground. His efforts are an indication of the many different ways in which people throughout the country are trying to get what is available in the 90 Crown Courts extended to the 556 lower courts.

By the end of last year, Witness Support was available in 49 courts and by the end of this year it is hoped to be nearer 80. Yet each one is funded from different sources, such as courts committees, police, probation, local authorities, business, local charities and even the National Lottery. What worries those concerned is how to keep going when the money runs out. Thanks to central funding in the Crown Courts, the Victim Support Service has supported nearly 100,000 people, 25 per cent of them victims, in the past year. Yet the courts deal with fewer than 5 per cent of cases. What is not in doubt is the success of the service itself.

Core funding from central Government is the clarion call and Victim Support estimates that it would cost £4 million a year to run a proper service in all magistrates' courts. The proposal was put to the Home Office 18 months ago. "We believe," says Helen Peggs from the charity, "that there's a need for a witness service in some shape in every court. In some areas we may be able to run an outreach service from the local Victim Support scheme, or extend the Crown Court witness service. In busy courts we may need permanent staff and a volunteer team."



The value of solicitors

Professor Adrian Zuckerman's persistence in claiming "No win, no fee, no solution", *The Times*, October 28, that civil litigation is expensive not because of court procedures but because lawyers have incentives to protract and complicate matters is sweeping and simplistic, and appealing to the uninformed. But it is also insulting to the vast majority of litigation lawyers whose livelihoods depend on their continually providing a value-for-money service.

He asks the Government to challenge head-on what he calls the "entrenched interests of lawyers", to ensure that legal fees are reasonable, predictable and proportional to the value of the issues at stake. But he fails to appreciate that day in, day out, experienced litigation lawyers advise their clients not to pursue or defend cases that are not worth the costs of doing so and that we know well the importance of the "costs equation".

Solicitors must, under their own professional rules, provide estimates alongside assessments of the merits of suing or defending from the onset, and regularly throughout litigation cases. We are not interested in selling unnecessary services. There is no long-term future in that.

Professor Zuckerman also makes play of the fact that defendants, unlike plaintiffs, will not be aided by

Lawyers complicate things and draw them out, claims an academic. Not so, says David McIntosh. We provide good value

the "no win, no fee" partial solution to the problems of funding litigation and to the threatened withdrawal of access to legal aid which may prevent many from asserting their legal rights. But those lawyers who specialise in civil litigation are already subject to marketplace value-for-money pressures.

Does he really believe the regular buyers of litigation services, particularly in the personal injury field, do not insist on value for money from the lawyers they regularly instruct? The trade unions, motor organisations, medical and other defence associations, professional indemnity clubs, insurers, pharmaceutical companies, banks and other regular defendants invariably maintain carefully chosen panels of solicitors used to working to strict pricing and service protocols (sometimes involving fixed fees and capping arrangements) and who would be quickly found out and replaced if

they attempted to elongate and overbill. No doubt, the Legal Aid Board from time to time has suffered from the fact that historically the lawyer it pays has been chosen less discriminatingly by the person seeking legal aid. These lay person choices have not always been wise. But from the perspective of a specialist personal injury practitioner with more than 30 years' experience, I can say that when too much hourly paid time has been invested, it is nearly always because of inexperience; not, as Professor Zuckerman suggests, because of self-servingness on the part of a time-recording lawyer.

This shortcoming is being addressed by the Legal Aid Board's moves towards supporting only "qualifying" firms so that the board will enjoy the same buying power as the other regular payers. Tightening the merits test for legal aid will, just as effectively as "no win,

no fee", stop unmeritorious cases being run at public expense.

The clocking-up of too many hours, albeit less often than Professor Zuckerman contends, will be reduced once the vital element of judicial supervision in all civil litigation cases comes in as part of Lord Woolf's master plan improving civil justice procedure.

The innuendo of Professor Zuckerman's writings is that lawyers are resisting new practices and any method of remuneration other than hourly rates which, this Fellow of University College, Oxford, says, they manipulate.

Come off it, Professor Zuckerman. Stop pretending your academic investigations have established that lawyers are regularly cheating their clients. Why not give Lord Woolf's proposals — to which you have contributed, including that for fixed costs in low-value/fast-track cases, "no win, no fee" arrangements and a tighter legal-aid merits test — the chance to prove themselves.

And give the legal profession credit for its contributions in welcoming these changes, which will go a long way towards dismantling your hobbyhorse.

● The author is senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper

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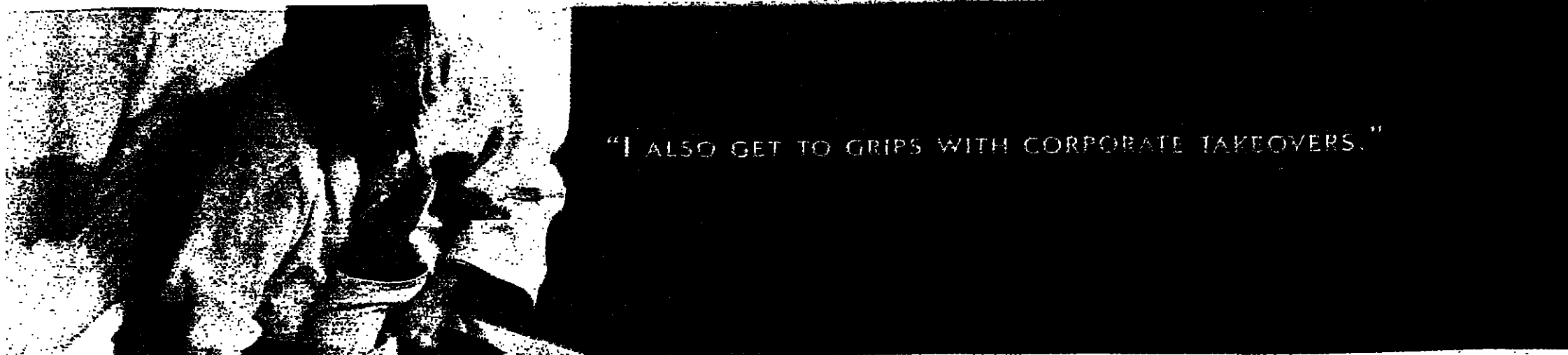
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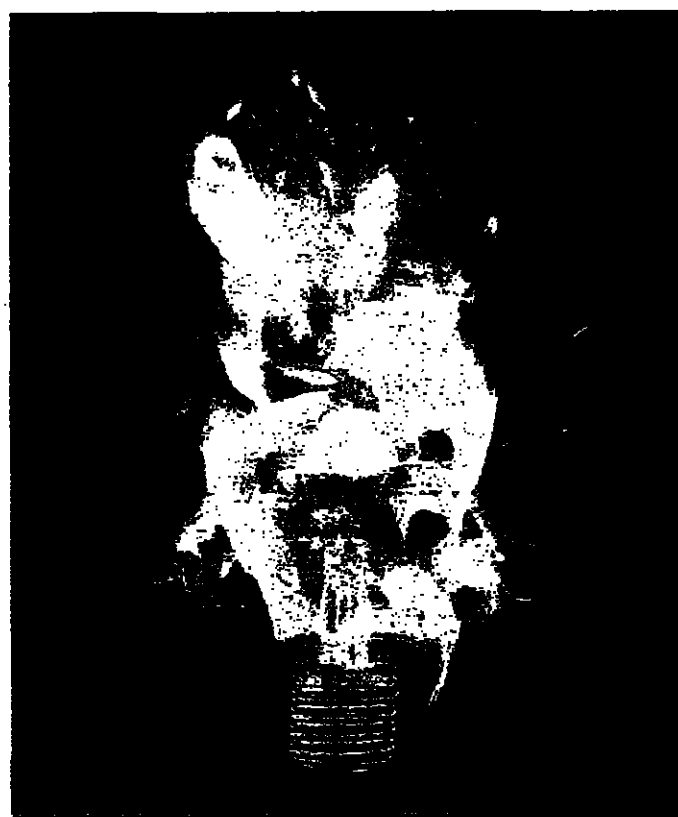
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CRICKET

Mushtaq waits to pile on pain for West Indies

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN RAWALPINDI

IT IS becoming difficult to describe the condition of West Indies cricket without sounding either maudlin or condescending. Pakistan battered them yesterday, scoring 281 runs on the third day of the second Test despite losing 30 overs to overnight dew and, later, bad light. They lost only one wicket in doing so, so thoroughly did bat master ball.

So far this game has lost 40 overs but Pakistan, who carry a lead of 100 into the last two days and have seven wickets in hand, could still win. When West Indies begin their second innings with survival in mind they will be confronted by Mushtaq Ahmed, whose ten wickets routed them in Peshawar.

The men who supplied that lead made hundreds of immense personal value. Aamir Sohail, the left-handed opener who said recently that he would never play again for his country, had gone 17 Tests without one and was fortunate to retain his place. Inzamam-ul-Haq, oddly, had never before made one in Pakistan, all five before this

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings 303 (S Chanderpaul 95, S L Campbell 76; Aamer Mahmood 4 for 50).
PAKISTAN: First Innings 281 (Saeed Anwar c Williams b Ambrose 160; Aamer Sohail c sub b Walsh 160; Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 169; Muhammad Wasim not out 45; Extras 10.5, 10.5, 10.5, 10.5).
Total (2 wickets) 403.
Man Khan, Wasim Akram, Aamer Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shoaib Akhtar to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-84, 3-387.
SCORING: Walsh 28-6-108-1; Ambrose 19-2-63-1; Bishop 19-1-74-0; Rose 22-2-75-1; Hooper 17-1-71-0; Umarais 0-11-34-0 (England) and Javed Aghar (Pakistan).

coming overseas. A stand of 323, a Pakistan record for the third wicket against West Indies, made up for it all.

Aamir, who launched his innings on Sunday night with some flashy strokes, showed greater control yesterday as he went through to 160, though he made liberal use of the pull shot until he mistimed a hook to Simmons, the substitute fielder, at backward point. It was a good catch, quite out of keeping with some of the sloppiness on view.

Inzamam's hundred was

distinguished by its patience, discretion and — pardon the word — architecture. Its outline was abundantly clear when he came in and, in the next five hours, he built it brick by solid brick. It has been an impressive piece of batting and he is still there on 169, having passed his previous best Test score, 148 at Lord's last year.

He is not exactly orthodox. His bat in the blockhole rests some little way from his feet but he brings it down straight and loves nothing more than thumping balls through cover, unless some fool of a fast bowler invites him to pull, which he does with equal relish. He caught Walsh, in the first over after tea, smack in the sweet spot, lifting him into the crowd at mid-wicket.

On a slow pitch Aamir and Inzamam were able to bat as they liked. Once again West Indies looked a rabble in the field, where every poor day further erodes Walsh's authority. Lara, who missed Aamir on 38 the previous evening, had plenty of time to consider his folly. When he is captain he will not be happy if his players commit howlers like that.

To concede 400 runs at four an over is as bad in its way as being dismissed for 151, as West Indies were in Peshawar. Like the batting, their bowling lacked discipline, as a tally of 24 no-balls and six wides proves.

Each day there is fresh evidence of a team falling apart. At Peshawar it was the sight of Lewis, the leg spinner, bowling round the wicket to contain Inzamam, who was batting on one leg. The give-away moment yesterday came in the second over with the new ball when Bishop bowled a ball that went for four wides.

Long before the end, they were simply going through the motions, clueless as to how to take wickets, restrain the batsmen or even prevent the singles that Aamir and Inzamam ran at will. They will do well to save this game, however good the pitch. This side is rotten to the core.



Twose's despairing dive for the crease proves in vain as Steve Waugh removes the bails to run him out for 29

Warne thwarted by final pair

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SIMON DOULL and Shayne O'Connor, the New Zealand last pair, clung on for 38 minutes, during which 10.4 overs were bowled, to deny Australia victory in the third and final Test in Hobart yesterday. After being set 288 to win in what proved to be 61 overs, New Zealand finished at 223 for nine, their two fast bowlers combining to defy the best efforts of Shane Warne, who took five for 88.

O'Connor survived a frantic appeal for a bat-pad catch from Warne's last ball of the day and Doull was dropped by Simon Cook off Warne's bowling with 25 minutes remaining.

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, countered criticism that the target he set was too stiff. "We weren't bowled out

twice in the series and it would have been disappointing only to win it 2-1," he said. "If New Zealand were going to win this match they were going to have to work pretty hard."

Yet it looked as if an upset might be on the cards when New Zealand had 50 on the board without loss off 31 balls

in 22 minutes. Nathan Astle, a makeshift opener, was electrifying in the first five overs, flaying Michael Kasprovicz and Paul Reiffel to all parts of the lush Bellerive Oval.

Although Kasprovicz was withdrawn after conceding 33 runs in three overs, Reiffel broke the opening partnership

at 72 and then Warne got to work against batsmen committed to attack. The New Zealand captain, Stephen Fleming, who was stumped aiming an expansive drive at the leg spinner, said that although the target had appeared steep it had forced his side to adopt a more aggressive approach. "We made a conscious decision. We decided to treat it as a 60-over, one-day game," he said.

New Zealand continued in swashbuckling style until Adam Parore, the last of the recognised batsmen, fell to a spectacular diving catch in the outfield by Matthew Elliott.

Taylor was 66 not out when he declared Australia's second innings at 138 for two, throwing open a game that had suffered badly from weather interference during its first three days.

HOBART SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 400 (M T G Elliott 114, G S Blewett 59, M E Waugh 51).
Second Innings 288 (M A Taylor not out 65; M E Waugh 59; G S Blewett 51; S R Waugh not out 50; Extras 10.4, 10.4).
Total (2 wickets) 138.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-108, 3-137, 4-182, 5-221, 6-223, 7-223, 8-223, 9-223, 10-223, 11-223, 12-223, 13-223, 14-223, 15-223, 16-223, 17-223, 18-223, 19-223, 20-223, 21-223, 22-223, 23-223, 24-223, 25-223, 26-223, 27-223, 28-223, 29-223, 30-223, 31-223, 32-223, 33-223, 34-223, 35-223, 36-223, 37-223, 38-223, 39-223, 40-223, 41-223, 42-223, 43-223, 44-223, 45-223, 46-223, 47-223, 48-223, 49-223, 50-223, 51-223, 52-223, 53-223, 54-223, 55-223, 56-223, 57-223, 58-223, 59-223, 60-223, 61-223, 62-223, 63-223, 64-223, 65-223, 66-223, 67-223, 68-223, 69-223, 70-223, 71-223, 72-223, 73-223, 74-223, 75-223, 76-223, 77-223, 78-223, 79-223, 80-223, 81-223, 82-223, 83-223, 84-223, 85-223, 86-223, 87-223, 88-223, 89-223, 90-223, 91-223, 92-223, 93-223, 94-223, 95-223, 96-223, 97-223, 98-223, 99-223, 100-223, 101-223, 102-223, 103-223, 104-223, 105-223, 106-223, 107-223, 108-223, 109-223, 110-223, 111-223, 112-223, 113-223, 114-223, 115-223, 116-223, 117-223, 118-223, 119-223, 120-223, 121-223, 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Fearnley looks to Malcolm signing

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WORCESTERSHIRE announced yesterday that they hope to sign Devon Malcolm in time for the start of next season. Malcolm is in his benefit year with Derbyshire, but has been a free agent since November 1 and is understood to be keen to make the move to New Road.

Duncan Fearnley, the Worcestershire chairman, confirmed the county's interest and said that he was "optimistic" about landing the 34-year-old England fast bowler. Although Worcestershire played down speculation in September that they intended to sign Malcolm, Fearnley said yesterday: "Things have changed a lot since that stage and he's the man our cricket committee are looking to sign."

"We've made it quite clear that we want a new strike bowler, although I've been in the game so long now to know that you don't take anything for granted until you see the contract signed."

"Our captain, Tom Moody, made it known that he wanted a strike bowler who could knock nine, ten, jack over, because we often got down to six or seven wickets and then could not polish

RUGBY UNION: BATTERED ENGLAND SIDES STEEL THEMSELVES FOR FURTHER EXAMINATIONS

Clarke given opportunity to end exile

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THIS will be a traumatic week for England. Like it or not they have crept under the skin of New Zealand, who will seek to conclude their year in style at Twickenham against England A this evening and against the senior England seniors at Twickenham on Saturday.

One of their *bêtes noires*, Martin Johnson, is likely to return after suspension on Saturday and it is in Johnson's backyard, at Welford Road, that the All Blacks' midweek XV make their farewell tonight. They will do so against a XV regarded as England's official A team that includes Ben Clarke at No 8.

When Clarke toured New Zealand with the British Isles in 1993 he was widely regarded as one of the best back-row forwards to visit them. His star has waned since then, his move from Bath to Richmond taking him into the second division and out of the mainstream, but he will need no reminding that this is an opportunity to press for a return to international rugby in the new year.

At 29 he has plenty of mileage left on the clock and 33 England appearances behind him, the last of them as a replacement against Australia in Sydney in July. He has alongside him the contrasting skills of Rory Jenkins and Patrick Sanderson, of whom Sanderson enjoyed a better night against the All Blacks at Bristol last week than did Jenkins at Huddersfield a week earlier.

Two of the England A players, Matt Allen, the Northampton centre, and Mark Regan, the Bath hooker, have the dubious privilege of playing three successive matches against the New Zealanders, for Emerging England, for the English Rugby Partnership (ERP) XV and for England A. Whether, at the end of it, they will be certain of their place in the pecking order must be in some doubt. The form of Richie Burdett, of Bath, will be monitored closely since he is a member of an endangered species — the England-qualified fly half —



Clarke, in typically aggressive form, charges past Keith Wood during England's victory over Ireland at Lansdowne Road in January 1995

and is likely to be required as a replacement when the team for Twickenham is named tomorrow. However, the autumn series has also thrown up a genuine newcomer in Spencer Brown, so impressive in defence at Bristol last week. Brown, who plays for Richmond, made the most of limited attacking opportunities and cut down Tana Umaga with a superb cover tackle.

New Zealand probably took the ERP XV too lightly and they gave an excellent

account of themselves before losing narrowly. Richard Hill, the England A coach, said: "I am sure the All Blacks will be mentally prepared for this one but whatever happens, it has been an invaluable England experience to play against the world's best team over these past few weeks."

There are two Leicester players on display, Graham Rowntree and the recalled Stuart Potter, and their supporters will also take an interest in the England Under-21 side that plays the touring

New Zealand youth XV at Newbury on Friday. Michael Horak, the South African full back who joined Leicester this season, makes his debut alongside two colleagues, Leon Lloyd and Lewis Moody. Horak, from Johannesburg, has an English mother and has played consistently for Leicester throughout their Allied Dunbar Premiership and European campaigns. The Under-21s include one senior international, Andrew Long, who won his first cap against Australia last month.

Gareth Thomas, who played on the wing for Wales against New Zealand at Wembley last Saturday, has completed his transfer from Bridgend to Cardiff for a sum around £100,000. Bridgend, in turn, have brought in Darren George, who has played lock for North Harbour in New Zealand.

ENGLAND A: T. Stimpson (Newcastle), S. Brown (Richmond), S. Potter (Leicester), M. Allen (Northampton), A. Adeneye (Bath), R. Burdett (Bath), S. Brown (Gloucester), G. Rowntree (Leicester), M. Regan (Bath), P. Sanderson (Gloucester), R. Jenkins (Harlequins), D. Sims (Gloucester), R. Jenkins (Harlequins), P. Sanderson (Gloucester), B. Clarke (Richmond), R. Jenkins (Harlequins).

NEW ZEALANDERS: T. Miller, T. Umaga, S. McLeod, A. Jerrard, S. Ockene, C. Spence, M. Robinson, M. Allen, A. Oliver, G. Slater, C. Hechlermann, M. Cookley, T. Blackadder, M. Carr, S. Sumdage, R. Jenkins, J. Stanley, J. Preston, N. Hewitt, C. Barrett, A. Blowers, A. Hogg.

Referee: A. Lewis (Ireland). ENGLAND UNDER-21: M. Horak (Leicester), D. Thompson (Saracens), S. Wood (Waterford), J. Pritchard (Bath), L. Lloyd (Leicester), J. Wilkinson (Newcastle), M. Wood (Worcester), M. Worsley (Bristol), A. Long (Bath), V. Hartland (Leicester), J. Beardsley (Leicester), J. Brownlie (Bristol), J. Cooke (Mossley), L. Moody (Leicester), J. Worsley (Worcester), R. Jenkins (Harlequins), S. Darnley (Leicester), J. Lewis (Bristol), R. Richards (London Irish), A. Kershaw (London Irish), D. Alenopoulos (Worcester), E. Webb (Leicester), P. Sanderson (Gloucester).

Erasmus returns as Scotland's injury problems mount

By MARK SOUSTER
AND KEVIN FERRIE

THE contrast in fortunes between Scotland and South Africa was graphically illustrated by events yesterday in Edinburgh, where the world champions had arrived on something of a high.

While Scotland struggled to piece together a squad of 26 for the international match at Murrayfield on Saturday, and have no idea when they will be able to select a side, the Springboks were able to strengthen their hand by recalling Johan Erasmus after injury. His return, at the

expense of Andrew Aitken, is the one change from the team that added to England's autumnal gloom at Twickenham on Saturday.

These are depressing times for Scotland, who find themselves ravaged by injuries. Their squad includes the 21 who saw service against Australia minus Adam Roxburgh, who is concussed. The six additions are Rob Wainwright, Barry Stewart, Peter Walton, Stuart Reid, Derek Stark and Rowen Shepherd.

However, the party includes several players who are far from fit, among them Gregor Townsend,

Alan Tait, James Craig and David Hilton. Of that quartet, Tait's hamstring problem is giving most cause for concern. Wainwright's match fitness is also uncertain. The former captain played his first game for a month for Dundee HSEFP at the weekend.

With Daddie Weir and Andy Reed unable to be considered and with Tom Smith wondering if he will play again this season because of a damaged pelvis, one can understand the frustrations of Richie Dixon, the coach, after the debacle against Australia.

"I have to say I have never felt so

disappointed," Dixon said. "Anyone who has been a national coach will agree that you are always under pressure. You just have to ensure that your players are properly prepared."

Jim Telfer, the Scottish Rugby Union director of rugby, acknowledged that under Nick Mallett, their new coach, South Africa had made rapid progress.

"They have reacted very well to what happened in the summer," Telfer said. "They have changed their game plan and are far more expansive. Mallett has given them their head. Beating them will be the

greatest achievement we have ever had." Speaking at the team hotel last night, Mallett alluded to the feeling of despair he had encountered in Scotland. "People in the street are saying to us 'Go easy on Scotland.' It is a terrible thing to be spoken about like that."

SOUTH AFRICA: P. C. Montgomery (Western Province), J. T. Small (Western Province), A. H. Strydom (Northern Transvaal), D. J. Murr (Western Province), P. W. G. Rossouw (Western Province), H. W. Horne (Northern Transvaal), J. P. du Randt (Free State), J. Dalton (Gauteng), A. C. Garvey (Natal), K. Otto (Northern Transvaal), M. G. Andrews (Natal), J. Erasmus (Free State), A. G. Venter (Free State), G. H. Teichmann (Natal), R. Jenkins (Harlequins), S. Darnley (Leicester), J. Lewis (Bristol), R. Richards (London Irish), A. Kershaw (London Irish), D. Alenopoulos (Worcester), E. Webb (Leicester), P. Sanderson (Gloucester).

SPORT IN BRIEF

Jordan goes back to top of money-list

EARNINGS: For the fifth time in six years, Michael Jordan is the richest athlete in sport, taking home a record \$78.3 million (about £47.5 million) in 1997. Jordan, of the Chicago Bulls basketball team, unseated Mike Tyson, who last year ended a four-year run by Jordan in the *Forbes* magazine list of wealthiest sports competitors. The former heavyweight champion fell to fifth.

Prince Naseem Hamed, the boxer, was the highest-ranked Briton on the list, his earnings of £7.5 million as the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, surpassing those of Lennox Lewis, who made £6.1 million.

Sciandri injured

CYCLING: Max Sciandri, the Italian-born Briton, finished a training session in hospital on Sunday after colliding with an oncoming car. Sciandri was training with two other riders at Montecatini Terme, Italy, when he swerved to avoid people who had wandered into their path and ended up against the windscreen of a car. He suffered a head injury, cuts to the face and a broken tooth.

Britons heads for Doha

TENNIS: Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman will take part in the Qatar Open from January 5-11. Henman, ranked No 17 in the world and No 2 in Great Britain, was the runner-up in Doha in 1997, while Rusedski, the world No 6 and British No 1, will be making his first appearance. The top seed will be Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, the former French Open champion, who is the world No 5.

Britons placed third

GOLF: The England Walker Cup pairing of Justin Rose and Gary Wolstenholme finished third in the Simon Bolivar Cup international team tournament at Caracas, Venezuela. Rose (278) and Wolstenholme (285) combined for a four-round aggregate of 563 — five behind Kentaro Yonekura and Mitsunori Kaneko, of Japan, the winners.

West Indies face five

CRICKET: West Indies will play five Test matches in their tour of South Africa. Ali Bacher, the United Cricket Board managing director, announced yesterday. Bacher said that while the itinerary is still being finalised, it had been agreed that the first Test will take place at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg on November 26 to 30.

Cathy Harris meets an American who preferred Oxford to the Olympic Games

Dreaming Spires offer Salvia perfect stage

Samantha Salvia is one of that rare breed of sportsmen and women prepared to give up the chance of representing their country at the Olympic Games to pursue an academic career. Old Dominion University's top student when she graduated with a BSc in civil engineering, she was also the first student from the university in Norfolk, Virginia, to win a Rhodes Scholarship.

While studying at Oxford, she is spending this winter playing for the women's national league club, Olton Terravest. Persuaded by Kristen Holmes, the United States international, to turn out for the Birmingham-based club this season, the pair are the first Americans to play in the English premier division. Hockey has not always been her life, but Salvia admits that she is enjoying the competition again after setting her sights on winning a Rhodes Scholarship and dropping out of the United States' training squad before the Games in Atlanta. "It was a big deal and very prestigious becoming a Rhodes Scholar," she said. "I haven't regretted the choice and I've never given a thought to rejoining the American squad. I've settled in well and love the life in Oxford."



Salvia successfully combines the contrasting roles of top-class hockey player and Oxford scholar. Photographs: Ashley Coombes



Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, she won an impressive array of awards for her outstanding academic and sporting achievements in a glittering college career. Asked if she was a swot, she laughed: "Is that some sort of English saying? Let's just say I'm an efficient worker." Nonetheless, there were, among others, three successive nominations as an Academic All American and she was captain of the Old Dominion field hockey team, which is at present ranked No 1 in the United States college game.

Nothing, though, could prepare her for the culture shock that she was to experience when she arrived in England for the first time to start her BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Jesus College. "You're almost lulled into a false sense of security because everyone speaks English," Salvia said. "Yet I can't get over how picky people are about lining up straight at a bus stop!"

In a recent letter to the President of Old Dominion, Salvia enthused about the ancient buildings, tradition and the rigours of her course, adding: "In England, I don't stand in a line, I wait in a queue. Occasionally, I indulge in some biscuits or chips, knowing in my heart they're really cookies and fries."

Her learning curve continued in the summer, when she was invited to take part in a project looking at restoring a contaminated urban river in Cape Town, South Africa. "I still have trouble getting used to the idea of having a pint after a game," she laughed. "Sport and alcohol don't go together in the US and I must admit I find the whole idea completely incongruous." She does admit she may be tempted if there is an occasion to celebrate.

Universities put their faith in foreign legion

David Hands casts a critical eye over the 116th University match

THE ringing Australian tones of Tom Murphy and Richie Maher were an indication yesterday of the continuing overseas thread that runs so strongly through the history of the University rugby match. Of the 30 players who will start the 116th fixture between Oxford and Cambridge at Twickenham next Tuesday, 10 come from Australasia, South Africa or North America. Oxford will also include two Irishmen.

There are times when the two universities seem more valued — at least in a sporting context — by those abroad rather than those at home. This has been the term in which both have been offered by the Rugby Football Union's abrupt removal of the immediate past captains to run the touchlines, nor have the hopes of the student administrators been rewarded where the match referee — yet to be confirmed — is concerned.

It will, though, be Oxford's hope that they can prise the Bowring Bowl from Cambridge, who have held it for the past three years, partly as a tribute to Mike Campbell-Lamerton who stands down at the end of this month as president of the rugby club. The former Scotland and British Isles captain will be succeeded by Sir Robin Butler, the new Master of University College.

Oxford will bring six Blues to the fray (a seventh, John Bothwell, has been injured most of this term) and Cambridge nine, an unusually high proportion that also strengthens the "Light Blues" position, as favourites. Set against that is the international experience that Niall Hogan, the Ireland scrum half, and Ray Lehner, who has propped for the United States, bring to Oxford. The general per-



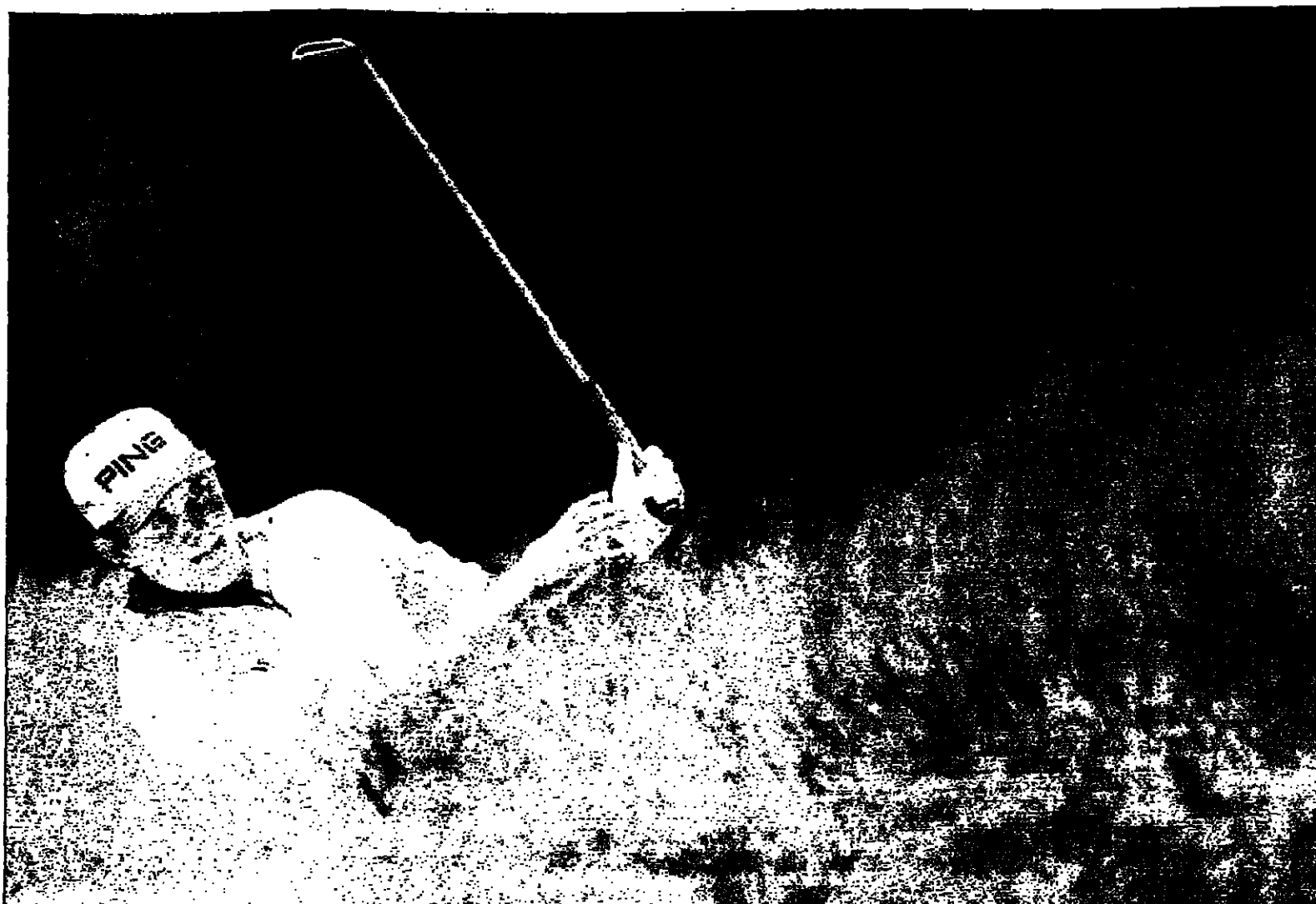
Hogan: experienced

TWICKENHAM TEAMS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: "P. Sumdage (St. Kenelm College, Auckland and Hughes Hall); "N. Walsh (Coventry CS and St. Catharine's); M. Robinson (Oxford); New Zealand and Hughes Hall; M. Denney (Bedford Modern and St. Edmund's); "N. Hill (St. Ignace College, Sydney and St. Edmund's); "R. Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse); R. Elliott (Dunham and St. Edmund's); "G. Reynolds (Chesham and Hughes Hall); "T. Murphy (St. Joseph's, Brisbane and St. Edmund's); captain, M. Foulds (Christ's College, Canterbury and Sydney Sussex); "R. Bramley (OEGS, Wexford and St. Edmund's); "A. Craig (Tauranga, New Zealand and Hughes Hall); "M. Hyde (St. Ignace College, Sydney and St. Edmund's); "H. Whitford (The Leys, and Homerton); J. Cocks (Newington College, Sydney and St. Edmund's).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: "R. Maher (St. Ignace College, Sydney and University); captain, N. Bothwell (Lynham St. Anne's HS and Worcester); N. Larsen (Hilton College, Durban and Lincoln); R. Rudge (St. Edward's, Liverpool and Nettle); R. Pollock (Oxford College, Cape Town and Kettle); "T. Jensen (St. Edmund's College, Canberra and St. Anne's); "N. Hogan (Trinity College, Dublin and Merton); R. Lehner (Lewist HS, Sacramento and St. Anne's); M. Collard (King's, Farnham and St. Anne's); A. Redden (Sohull and University); "T. Eganbauer (St. Ignace College, Sydney and St. Anne's); A. Roberts (Ampleforth and New); "M. Orsler (King's, Canterbury and Christ Church); D. Kishner (St. Joseph's, Sydney and St. Anne's); "N. Spicer (Oxford Wood College, Dublin and St. Anne's).

Golfer making similar impact to Lyle and Faldo



Westwood comes out of a bunker on the final day at Melbourne, where he beat Greg Norman in a play-off. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

Westwood's reputation soars

John Hopkins considers the remarkable rise of an Englishman who could beat Montgomerie in the race for a major title

The time: Sunday morning before lunch. The place: an hotel adjoining a golf club on the north Norfolk coast. The cast: golfers who had battled their way round against strong winds and rain and were now rewarding themselves with drinks that were bringing feeling back to chilled bodies.

Another said, rather more enviously: "I wouldn't mind having half what he has won in the past month. He must have won over a half-million pounds since the beginning of November." He added: "I think Westwood will win a major championship before Colin Montgomerie."

For a moment there was silence as the assembled company considered the prospect

of Lee Westwood. Open champion, or the sight of Lee Westwood proudly wearing a green jacket.

Yet it is a measure of how far and how fast Westwood has come these past 11 months that such a statement could be made without appearing outrageous about a man who played in all four major championships for the first time in 1997.

Looking back on 1997, one suggests it has the look of a seminal year. It was the year of the tiger if not of Tiger. Three of the four major championships were won by men not yet 29 and, in Europe, ten of the leading 20 in the Order of Merit were younger than 30. The old order changed, salute the new guard.

The year began with all the kerfuffle about 21-year-old Tiger Woods and whether he could do the grand slam and, in Britain at least, shows every sign of ending with all the kerfuffle about Westwood, who will not be 25 until next



'Winner of three events on three continents within the space of a month'

April. He has won three events on as many continents within a month — the Volvo Masters in Europe, the Visa Taiheyo Masters in Asia, and the Australian Open, not to mention coming second in the

Sarazen World Open in Atlanta, Georgia, where he chased home Mark Calcavecchia with a brilliant closing round of 68. That Westwood might win a major championship before Montgomerie is not the sort of comment Montgomerie would want to hear as, at 34, he struggles to rid himself of the demons that beset him at Opens and to win the major championship to which he has come so close in the United States on four occasions.

Yet Westwood's progress has been so rapid this year that he can now be considered a legitimate contender. Thus Montgomerie will be one of two such men from Europe, whereas lately he seems to have borne that load alone.

Westwood is cutting a wider swathe at a younger age than any British player since Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo in the early 1980s. By the same age, Lyle had twice won the European Order of Merit, been successful in tournaments around the globe and won the individual title in the World Cup. He was truly a prodigy.

Faldo was 24 in April 1981 and by then had played in three Ryder Cups and won three PGA Championships.

Lyle could hit a ball 100 yards at the age of three.

Westwood falls between the two. He has won fewer tournaments than either Lyle or Faldo, not yet won the individual title in the World Cup or played in three Ryder Cups.

Indeed, on his baptism in the event this year there were moments in his opening match when he looked out of his depth, an impression he corrected with doughty play later.

Westwood's tournament victories, however, are certainly more impressive than Faldo's at the same age. Calcavecchia considers him to be the best player under 30 in Europe. Norman has said that Westwood has the potential to be among the top ten in the world.

Though he looks so young as to appear not to have lost his milk teeth, he plays with a maturity that belies his years. If he is not quite a member of the John Daly "grip it and rip it" school, then nor is he a "first hit the fairway, then hit the green and then two-putt" sort of steady Eddie character.

He is long, thrilling to watch and self-confident. The only apparent weakness in his game is his work around, not on the greens, an area where practice yields the quickest results.

BOWLS

Hazell wins approval of England selectors

ALTHOUGH England won the women's British indoor team championship in style at Perth last season, the selectors have made several changes for the home international series that will be staged in Darlington in March (David Rhys Jones writes).

Among four newcomers named yesterday in the 26-woman squad, Sandy Hazell, from the Mote Park club, in Maidstone, has won the English, British and world indoor singles titles over the past 18 months and has finally convinced the selectors that she is worth her place in the team.

Jean Baker, of South Forest, won the national outdoor singles championship in 1989 and has been a member of the England outdoor team since

then. This is the first time that she has received the approval of the indoor selectors.

A third newcomer, Liz Messer, lives in Hampshire but chooses to play for the Cambridge Chesterton club. Her selection is a reward for winning the national triples title at York last March. Carol Pollington, from Diss, in Norfolk, will also be making her first international appearance.

ENGLAND: Rick Ows, S Hickman (p), George Field, N Edwards (p), J Thomas (p), D Heron (p), Rink Two: L Messer (Cambridge Chesterton), S Hazell (Mote Park), S Anderson (Thornaby), Rink Three: D Wilson (Bosham), J Baker (South Forest), C Jones (Cambridge Chesterton), J Haynes (North Walsham), Rink Four: V Lyons (Preston), M Dyer (Chesham), S Hopt (Mote Park), S Anderson (Thornaby), Rink Five: K Haines (Chesham), C Pollington (Diss), J Coates (Worthing), M Price (Bosham), S Anderson (Thornaby), Rink Six: M Jordan (Petersborough), D Gray (Hartford), S Bessell (Worthing), M Price (Bosham), S Anderson (Thornaby), Rink Seven: L Turner (Colchester), L Reed (Chesham).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

STATUES

(a) Possessing, indicating, conferring, or imparting a high status. A colloquial adaptation. "No matter how many irrelevant if statues pieces the New Yorker publishes."

TARBAGAN

(c) A large long-haired marmoset, *Marmota bobak* or *Marmota sibirica*, found in the steppes of eastern and central Asia. Also the pet of this animal. The Russian word is *tarbagan*. "The giant marmoset was being hunted for its fur, known as tarbagan skins."

WARI

(b) A board game, originally West African but now played also in the West Indies and Guyana. A variation of mancala. Probably an Asanti word. "Wari is a game for two players using 48 pebbles and a board hollowed out into two parallel rows of six cups. Awari is a masculine pastime though women occasionally play. Making Awari boards involves spiritual danger, and only old men who have lost a wife are allowed to make them."

TANSU

(a) A Japanese chess of drawers. The Japanese name. "The tansu, or chest, consists of two, three, or at most five drawers above each other, which fit exactly into the wall recesses."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rd4; Kg4 2 R5 Qb2 3 Nd1 and Ne3 follows

TELEVISION CHOICE

Lenin's secrets unmasked

Timewatch: Lenin's Secret Files

BBC2, 9.00pm

One of the consequences of the collapse of the Soviet Union has been a less reverential attitude towards its founding father. Not only does the Russian Government want to move Lenin's body from its mausoleum in Red Square but files about him, long held in secrecy, are being made public. This material forms the basis of a film which while not altering the main story of Lenin and the Russian Revolution adds useful glosses on the man and the statesman. In the private sphere we hear about the strange three-way relationship between Lenin, his devoted wife and his half-French mistress. The documents reveal Lenin as crueler than often portrayed, once ordering 100 kulaks to be hanged in public. This is linked to his rapidly declining health and the need to push the Revolution through before he died.

The Turner Prize Live

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Britain's premier art award is announced at a ceremony at the Tate Gallery in London. The shortlist is notable for comprising four women, though some have accused the judges of a rush to political correctness after the all-male list in 1996. None of the four artists is a painter; nor is she a sculptor in the traditional sense. This, however, is becoming a Turner norm. Christine Mordant specialises in mixed media installations, including one on the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele. Cornelia Parker's best-known work was a collection of objects displayed round the sleeping figure of the actress, Tilda Swinton. The Canadian-born Angela Bulloch also uses installations to disturbing effect, while Gillian Wearing's medium is photography. Among those giving their reaction is *The Times* art critic, Richard Cork.

Back to the Floor: Pillow Talk

BBC2, 9.50pm

As chief executive of Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, Ann Lyle is responsible for 4,000 staff and a budget of £110 million. But for a film she leaves her hospital to get a taste of working at the dirty end of the NHS. She spends a week on one of her own wards as an auxiliary



Lenin speaks to Parliament (BBC2, 9pm)

nurse and learns what it is like to wipe bottoms, cope with many fewer beds than there are patients to fill them and be thrown in at the deep end because trained nurses are in such short supply. To credit her with a potentially embarrassing assignment with good humour and genuine sympathy, not least for the auxiliary's low basic pay (£8,000 a year, against her own £70,000). But on the basis that what drives her mad are not big crises but small irritations, she reserves her anger for the shortage of pillows.

Crimestwatch UK: Still Unsolved

BBC1, 10.00pm

In a variation on the usual *Crimestwatch* format, the emphasis tonight is on making appeals in respect of cases which go back several years but have not been cleared up. The exercise may do more to intrigue the viewer than turn up crucial information but there is always a balance in these programmes between voyeurism and crime solving. The oldest case goes back to July 1989 when Peter and Gwendolyn Dixon from Oxfordshire were found shot dead on a coastal path in Wales. The appeal is for information about a cyclist seen in the area. Another unsolved murder is that of Patrick Kurling, a 45-year-old accountant, in 1990. In this instance it is hoped that a reconstruction will jog memories. Other crimes featured are armed robberies and two child abductions in Buckinghamshire. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Bricks and Mortar

Radio 2, today and tomorrow (see listings)

Radio 2 is becoming increasingly fond of projects ranging over two days or more which attempt to help listeners through various of life's minefields, not the least of which is buying or renting a home. Tom Conti introduces this project and it includes two phone-ins: one on housing policy at national and local levels during the Jimmy Young programme (today, 11.30am) and the other on home improvements and how to finance them in Pam Rhodes's show (tomorrow, 1.30pm). The subject of buying is of course close to the British heart but it is hardly because it offends the notion of the home as castle and because every castle needs constant attention from that British icon, the amateur handyman.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zof Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 News 6.30 Ed Stewart 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel includes a session by Period Paints 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young, includes Bricks and Mortar 1.30pm Pam Rhodes 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Richard Shillcock's Classical Gas 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Tiddling the horses. Last in the series 9.30 Halo, Darling, I'm Home. Russell Davies reports on 75 years of radio and TV families 12.00am Steve Madden 4.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 3 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match, includes Ipswich v Manchester United 8.00 News Talk with Nigel Cassidy 11.00 News Extra with David McNeil 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 (FM) Robin Barrie (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Home 4.00 Russ 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyle (AM) Colin Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anne Reabum 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Mozart (Overture The Magic Flute), Copland (Old American Song), Vivaldi (Concerto in C for two trumpets), Rossini, arr. Britten (Madness musical), Johann Strauss, son (Overture Die Fledermaus), Respighi (Fountains of Rome) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobbay. Wagner, transcribed (Overture Tannhauser), Schumann (Spring Quartet in F), Balakirev (Symphony), Holst (St Paul's Suite), Verdi (Overture for full orchestra) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Whiles. Purcell (Two Parted), Chopin (Polonaise in F sharp minor), Rameau (Chaconne, Dardanus), Poulenc (Aubade), Purcell (Fantasy upon One Note), Beethoven (Sonata in C sharp minor, Moonlight), Russell-Smith (Quiet Earth), Purcell (Two Parted), Beethoven (String Trio in C minor) 12.00 Composer of the Week: George Porter 1.00pm The BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A recital given by the Brindley Quartet. Stravinsky (concertino), Shostakovich (String Quartet No 7), Beethoven (String Quartet in C minor, Resumovsky) (f) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra. Vaughan Williams (Overture The Wasps), under Alexander Lazarev (The Lark Ascending), with Michael Davis, violin; Britten (Sinfonia da Requiem), Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D), under Leonard Slatkin 4.00 Voices. Ian Burrows presents a selection of songs on the theme of marriage 4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Ed Stewart on 0171-560 4444 with your questions for the guest of the day 10.00 (FM) News: ... And Here's the Tape to Prove It. See Choice (1/6) 10.00 (LW) News: Daily Service 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 Macabre. A look back at the scenes of the National Health Service with Geoff Watts 12.00 News: You and Yours, Consumer news and current affairs with John Wiles 1.00pm Peter Snow presents stories from April 17, 1963 (2/6) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.10 News 1.15 The Book of the Week, by Owen O'Neill. A woman's life is transformed when she is given a pygmy. With Dianne Kelly, Aidan McArdle, Ellen Pollack 2.30 Milestones in Music. Andrew Green talks to the pianist Barry Douglas about Ireland (3/6) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Show 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Vaughan sees John Godber's new romantic comedy for the Hull Truck Theatre Company 4.45 Short Story: Will You Marry Me? By Richard Brown, read by Ian McEwan (f) 5.00 PM, with Clare English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

... And Here's the Tape to Prove It

Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Those who saw the remarkable film about polar bears on BBC 1 last Wednesday (November 26) should enjoy this programme, the story of a bear and his audio diaries in which four people relive their adventures in the wild. Today the subject is Doug Allan, who filmed the bears in the Arctic. Allan explains how he got so close to the bears and in particular he talks about the extraordinary underwater footage of the bears swimming. I had assumed a remote control camera was used but in fact Allan simply plunged into the icy water with an underwater camera and filmed the bear swimming above him. It was the first time anyone had done that, "the one big chance" in Allan's phrase. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Of the Shelf: The Grass Is Singing 7.30 Options 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Concert Hall 9.00 News: News in German (848 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Deal with Drugs 9.30 Litterature File. The Mail on the News 9.35 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsday 11.30 What Do Christians Believe? 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Muzak Hit List 3.00 News: News in German (848 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 Soundbyte 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News in German (848 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 One Planet: News in German (848 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Megamix 8.00 Newsday 8.05 News 8.15 Britain Today 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 World Business Report 8.45 Sports Roundup 8.50 One Planet 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey. Includes Morning March and Breakfast Baroque 9.40 Henry Kelly. Includes the Classic Masterpieces. Hall of Fame Hour and a recipe for vegetable curry 1.00pm Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto Haydn (Main Concerto No 1 in C) 3.00pm Jamie Cuck 6.30 Newsday 7.00pm Smooth Classics 8.00pm Newsday 8.15pm Evening Concert. Vaughan Williams (Fauriol for Glorious John), Verdi (Overture La Forza del Destino), Ravel (Valses Nobles et Sentimentales), Haydn (Cello Concerto No 2 in D), Schubert (Valse Triste), Henry (An Irish Symphony) 10.00 Michael Maguire. Includes at 11.30 Nocturne 2.00am Concerto (f) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

5.00 In Tune. The percussionist Evelyn Glennie talks to Sean Rafferty as she prepares for a concert to celebrate the 75th birthday of the composer Xanakis. Music includes Purcell, Richard Strauss and Mozart 7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century). From the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. With James Clark, violin; Richard McMahon, piano; and Ursula Smith, cello. Fauré (Violin Sonata No 2 in E minor) 8.30 Brilliant Crossroads. Benjamin Newcombe, the lives and patronage of Winifred Singer — la Princesse de Polignac — and Marie-Laure de Noailles 8.50 Stravinsky (Scherezade; Baccara; the Fairchild; Ravel (Berceuse sur le nom de Gabriel Fauré); Fauré (Piano Trio in D minor) 9.45 Postscript: Ashes and Phoenixes (Sounding the Century). Stephen Johnson travels to Nuremberg to talk to the historian Hermann Gieseler about German culture and society in the years immediately after the Second World War (2/6) 10.10 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, under Omer Van der Linden, trombone. A performance of Jan Sandstrom's interpretation of the life and times of Don Quixote 10.45 Night Watch. Richard Coles reports on tonight's Turner Prize. Plus a report on the RSC's Culture, Business and Society 11.30 Composer of the Week: Massenet (f) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather. Another chance to hear the planet Ray Bryant in conversation 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

6.00 Sbc O'Clock News 6.30 North East of Eden. A comedy series, by Peter Kenny. A woman inherits her uncle's medical practice. With Josie Sims, Rebecca Front and James Garbutt (1/6) (f) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Film on 4. Presented by Lindsay Cuvien 7.30 Science Now. A weekly look at the latest scientific developments with Peter Evans (f) 8.30 The Network. Alan Lewis puts computing power through its paces and asks whether having access to more information means that we always make better decisions (2/6) 9.00 In Touch, with Peter White 9.30 Kaleidoscope (f) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another Time, Another Place, by Jessie Keenan's account of an abandoned farm which takes on foreign workers in 1944. Abridged by Brian McCabe, read by Vicki Massey (7/10) 11.00 Mediascene. A review of this week's events in the media (f) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the day's news from Westminster 11.30 (FM) Sentimental Journey. Arthur Smith presents the third of a six-part series about travel experiences. Vol 1: Journeys returns to Copenhagen after a break of 40 years (2/10) (f) 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Metroland. Julian Barnes reads his first novel (2/10) (f) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 Aa World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.8-98.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 82.4-84.4, LW 198, MW 659, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 649; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1060. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John McKinnane.

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مكتبة النور

sy of his hard-working, cheerful neighbour, Ned Flanders, persuaded Homer to make a deal that his neighbour's new business — a shop selling items for hard-headed people — would fail. When his wish came true and Flanders was on the brink of bankruptcy, Homer felt so guilty that he ran to his neighbour's rescue.

It is part of the brilliance of *The Simpsons* that between Ash and Ned, Stridger and Homer, and

Asian Pacific and Homeless Survey. It is Matt Groening's cartoon character that most closely reflects the way that seemingly down-on-their-lazy, insensitive men will or redeem themselves in real life: only women would stop playing with their washing machines long enough to realise that men are like any other living, breathing creature on God's earth. At least any other living, breathing creature who would rather drive for hours when covering a six-kilometre journey than admit they're lost.

Joe
Joseph

James Fleet's Ashley, the star of this sitcom, is a middle-aged bachelor. He is supposedly competent to run his own computer business, but happens to have the physical co-ordination and emotional maturity of a walnut.

This man may be recognisable to the people from *Equinox*, but not to me. I had been assuming he was a particularly sorry case of "Sitcom Man": Frank Spencer, but

without the gravitas. Luckily, Asin plays her everything a weak "Sittom Man" needs to keep him functioning: a daily who provides him with an audience for his "Sittom Man" views on life, and a sexual partner who neglected sister-in-law (his fraternal twin, played by Fraydoun's wife) humiliates him with brazen, brazen advice and may, the way the things are looking, end up as his first sexual partner.

While shows such as *Seinfeld*, *Larry Sanders*, *Frasier* or *Friends* juggle three plots at once, *Spark* can barely keep one in the air. The linearity of *Spark*'s plot and the predictability of its dialogue were cruelly exposed in *I'm Alan Partridge* (BBC2). The deplored chat show host Partridge is in roughly the same place as *Spark*'s in a autistic-man-as-normal-man continuum, but — because of the quality of the writing and the spooky skill with which Steve Coogan inhabits Partridge's skin — carries off his inadequacy

with considerably more finesse. According to *Equinox*, autistic people cannot fathom what other people are thinking. They cannot read between the lines of body language. They have no interest in what other people are thinking. They rarely have friends, and are clear of sexual relationships, because they don't really know how to cope with them, and they are incapable of recognising the wide range of emotional states others, such as disgust, pity, incredulity, and embarrassment.



Those are the very emotional responses that greet Alan Patten bridge every day, and he can never recognise any of them. That is why he sneers a path through life that is as graceful as a pinball in play.

As for The Simpsons (BBC), it has a father figure Homer Simpson who can barely understand himself, let alone others. Last night his jealous

sy of his hard-working, cheerful neighbour, Ned Flanders, persuaded Homer to make a deal: that his neighbourhood's new business — a shop selling items for the hand-picked people — would fall to his wiser and more caring and Flanders would be the brains of the operation. Homer felt so guilty that he rallied to his neighbour's rescue.

It is part of the brilliance of *Simpsons* that between Ash, Alan Partridge and Homer Simpson, it is Matt Groening's caricature character that most closely reflects the way that seemingly dull, lazy, insensitive men will often redeem themselves in real life — often women would stop playing with their crashing machines long enough to realise that men are like any other living, breathing creature on God's earth. At least any other living, breathing creature who would rather drive for hours when covering a six-hour journey than admit they're lost.

CHANNEL 5

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- CHANNEL 5 ON SAT**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on the Astra 1N Viewers with a Videocrypt key will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for Astra 1N are: 19.55075 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early** (4783)
7.30 Milkshake! (7063802)
(9555365) 8.00 **Havakaz**
- 8.30 World/World Series on the**
Looking at the first domestic electricity in (7801050)
- 9.00 Espresso** (7527395) 10.00 (4882734) 10.30 **Period** (301294)
- 11.00 Looza Chat show** (3 Double Espresso (9046 Bold and the Beautiful 12.30pm **Family Affairs**
- 1.00 5 News Update** (833254 Beach (T) (4876314) 2.30 (3871192)
- 3.30 The Judge and Justice**
starring Bette Davis and **Adventure** drama about retired female judge who private detective agency time convicts. Directed by Rich (907020)
- 5.20 5's Company: Late Edition**
5.30 Whittle (T) (4249936)
- 6.00 100 Per Cent Game show** (4248869)
- 6.30 Family Affairs** Melanie different light (T) (42208)
- 7.00 Exclusive Entertainment**
- 7.30 Animal Outcasts:** Seco series begins with a k attempts to survive in the encroachment (T/7) (T) 4
- 8.00 Vanessa's Day With** spends a day with the Rhodes (T) (5607482)
- 8.30 5 News** (T) (5683285)
- 
- Rachel Ward and Jeff**
- 9.00 Against All Odds** (1984) and Jeff Bruges star in a former football star who mobster to find his mis. Directed by Tandy Harkin

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FOOTBALL 48

Coleman joins the jet-setters at Craven Cottage

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2 1997

GOLF 50

Westwood ready to take a leading role



Seeding now unlikely for England

Hoddle ready to accept loss of status

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MARSEILLES

THE giant cranes towered over the docks, the shunting engines pushed and pulled their cargoes around the railway yards and the shoppers flitted from window to window on La Canebière, but nowhere in this port city was there more hustle and bustle than at the Stade Velodrome. In a sport that draws its lifeblood from winning and losing, there has never been more excitement over the prospect of a draw.

At the stadium on the south side of the city, where the qualifiers for the World Cup finals in France next year will discover on Thursday in which group they have been placed, construction workers began to erect the stage on which the ceremony will take place and officials readied themselves for the arrival of the representatives of 32 countries that have qualified.

The buzz of expectation, the sense that this is the beginning of the great jamboree, the festival of football that will start at the Stade de France in Paris on June 10, was heightened by fevered speculation

about the identity of the eight privileged teams who will be admitted to the ranks of the top seeds.

Most of the gossip surrounded the status likely to be awarded to England. Calculations complex enough to bamboozle a bank of computers all seemed to point to the fact that, despite their performance in qualifying above Italy to reach the finals, Glenn Hoddle's team would probably be lumped in with the second group of seeds.

The latest information from Fifa, the world governing body, was that the meeting of the World Cup Organising Committee today would allocate the top seedings on the basis of an aggregate of Fifa rankings over the past three years in combination with performances at the past three World Cups. Whichever way it came out, England did not make the top eight.

The only hope, it seems, is that the pragmatic considerations that so often rule decisions like this, reasons such as the commercial disadvantages inherent in losing England

from the competition at an early stage and saving the best ties until later in the tournament, might hold sway and bring England into the top eight.

Some information from "unnamed Fifa representatives" pointed to that outcome, but the consensus was that the leading eight are likely to be Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Spain, Holland and Romania. There are anomalies in that selection that do not square with England's present Fifa ranking of sixth.

England, though, have suffered from their failure to qualify for the last World Cup in the United States. If Fifa were to attempt to accommodate them and calculate the seedings purely on world rankings, Italy, Holland and Argentina would all miss out. And so, by yesterday afternoon, Hoddle seemed to be accepting that England would have to face up to the prospect of playing in the same group as one of the leading nations.

"It will be a bit of a disappointment if we are not seeded," Hoddle said, "but what will be, will be. Being seeded is not the advantage I used to be when you could play three games at the same venue. We believe the Fifa rankings reflect the real progress made in recent years by the England team. We have a new respect in the world."

"Whether we are seeded or not, other countries will want to avoid us in France for as

Family planning 48
Overseas view 48
Symons demoted 48

long as is possible. I believe there are six or seven teams who can win the World Cup and that includes us. Eventually, we will have to meet and beat the best so whenever we get them and wherever we get them, we will be ready for the job."

As England appeared to become resigned to their fate as second seeds last night, a destiny they are likely to share with nations such as Belgium, Bulgaria and Saudi Arabia, they even seemed willing to countenance the idea of what might once have been viewed as a worst-case scenario, of being drawn with the might of Brazil.

Hoddle stopped short of actually urging the organisers to pair England with the World Cup holders but, providing his team could qualify for the last 16 behind Mario Zagallo's team, there would be a method to that madness because England would not have to face them again until either team reached the final.

That particular scenario would see England playing Brazil in the opening match of the tournament in the Stade de France on June 10. They would play their second and third group games in Bordeaux and Saint-Etienne and not a single match in Nantes, where they have been planning to base themselves for the duration of their involvement.

Hoddle was, though, given the hint of some better news yesterday when it emerged that Sol Campbell, the central defender who was given a second yellow card in England's final qualifying match, would probably not be suspended for the opening game of the tournament.



Hoddle: reconciled



Charlotte Edwards, a fine batting prospect, spins away in the Surrey nets. Photograph: André Camara

England women ready for passage to India

BY THIRAS PETROMANOLIS

ENGLAND'S women cricketers made their final preparations yesterday before leaving for Delhi today for their defence of the World Cup. A coaching session at the Surrey County Cricket Centre at George Abbott School, near Guildford, brought to an end an intensive programme of indoor nets and tactical talks.

Geoff Arnold was there to offer coaching advice and show how to bowl the "Adam Hollinks" slower ball (with fingers played either side of the seam), which can be such an effective weapon in the limited-overs game. The players were eager to take on board all the advice the former England fast bowler had to offer.

Barbara Daniels, a member of the successful 1993 World Cup squad, recognised that there was a limit to what could be achieved at this late stage, but was grateful for the excellent indoor facilities at the centre.

"It's difficult to know what to expect as far as training facilities go when we get to India, so we're taking advantage of the facilities here," she said. "It's also a good opportunity to get people tuned up and focused."

The players are confident but were rather surprised to learn that the final had been put back a day to December 29, for the reserve day, December 30, happens to coincide with the date of their return flight to London.

Although England are the tournament favourites, conditions on and off the field will be vastly different to those they enjoyed on those memorable days four years ago.

Jan Healy's career in international one-day cricket could be over just seven months after leading Australia to a 4-3 victory in South Africa. Healy, who lost the Test vice-captaincy to Steve Waugh on the Ashes tour, now finds himself out of the 13-man squad named for the first four matches of the triangular series against New Zealand and South Africa starting on Thursday.

He and Mark Taylor, the Test captain, whose omission was no surprise, are the two most high-profile casualties of the new selection policy of picking separate teams for the two forms of the game.

The fast bowlers, Michael Kasprovic and Simon Cook, and the opening batsman, Matthew Elliott, are also omitted from the team that played against New Zealand in the drawn Hobart Test, which finished yesterday.

O'Sullivan challenges the established order

BY PHIL YATES



O'Sullivan: talented

IN 1993, Ronnie O'Sullivan was hailed as the natural successor to Stephen Hendry as the game's pre-eminent force. Four years older and, it would appear, wiser, he is once again challenging for the status of snooker's leading player.

When O'Sullivan defeated Hendry 10-6 in the final of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Preston Guild Hall on Sunday, he re-emerged as the player most likely to break the Scot's hold on the world No 1 position that he has occupied for eight consecutive seasons.

This result is even more satisfying than the last time I beat Stephen here," said O'Sullivan, who became, at 17 years 11 months, the youngest winner of a world-ranking event when, against all expectations, he overcame Hendry in the 1993 United Kingdom championship final.

O'Sullivan has 11 tournament wins to his credit, including successes at the British Open and Benson and Hedges Masters. In addition, during the Embassy World Championship this year, he compiled the fastest maximum - 147 break on record - 5min 20sec.

However, it was also at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield that O'Sullivan's last remaining chance of superseding Hendry as the most youthful world champion was extinguished. There existed an inescapable feeling that he was in danger of never fulfilling his potential.

"I realised changes had to be made before the start of last season," said O'Sullivan, who won the Asian Classic, German Open and the European

League - again beating Hendry in the final - during a relatively successful 1996-97 campaign. He concentrated on physical, rather than mental, tuning. "I woke up one morning, took a look at myself in the mirror and saw a slob staring back," he said. He embarked on a strict fitness regime and shed two stones.

He may have been fit by the start of last season, but O'Sullivan still lacked the sustained concentration that is essential for consistency. Two recent developments have served to put that vital ingredient in place, however. One came during the summer, when O'Sullivan, a former client of Barry Hearn, signed a contract with Ian Doyle, the game's most powerful manager, to become a member of the Team GdeZ Capital group. Derek Hill supplied the other.

At 6ft 10in, Hill is an imposing figure. He is also amiable, has an inoffensive disposition and, most importantly, acts as a calming influence on the impulsive

O'Sullivan, with whom he has been friends since the latter's formative years. For Hill, 44, an afternoon fishing has far more attraction than a discotheque.

"He has good for me," O'Sullivan said. "He settles me down, keeps me ticking over and even makes practice enjoyable." It is no coincidence that their informal partnership was only renewed at the start of the United Kingdom championship after a year-long hiatus.

With the £75,000 first prize, O'Sullivan, who celebrates his 22nd birthday on Friday, climbs to sixth on the all-time list of prize money winners, with £1,313,531. He is also only the fourth player, after Steve Davis, Doug Mountjoy and Hendry, to prevail at the United Kingdom championship more than once.

While O'Sullivan's confidence is on a steep upward curve, that of Hendry must be fragile. He has now failed to beat O'Sullivan in four meetings since February and has lost on his four most recent appearances in a final.

To talk of Hendry in decline may be premature, yet it is impossible not to wonder if the last United Kingdom championship match to be played at Preston Guild Hall - the event switches to Bournemouth next year - will influence a shift in the game's balance of power, the next stage of which may take place in Bingen, Frankfurt, where the final stages of the German Open begin on Monday. Both O'Sullivan, the title-holder, and Hendry will be there.

Outraged Hendry, page 52

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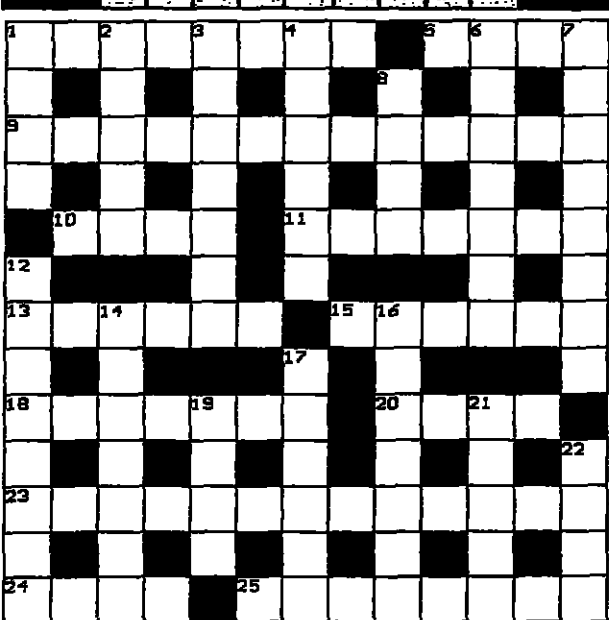
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	PANAMA 30
	SOUTH AFRICA 35
	TUNISIA 23
	CROATIA 21
	YUGOSLAVIA 22
	DENMARK 8
	NORWAY 14
	AUSTRIA 26
	FRANCE 50
	JAPAN 18
	JAMAICA 39
	S KOREA 31
	SAUDI ARABIA 34
	NIGERIA 71
	CAMEROON 51
	CHILE 17
	MOROCCO 18
	USA 29
	MEXICO 11

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1266

ACROSS

- 1 E. Eur. country: senior
- 5 Caprice (6)
- 9 Speak (criticism) plainly (5,5)
- 10 Join (metal) by heat (4)
- 11 Colonist (7)
- 13 (Eg reverently) quiet (6)
- 15 US gorge (6)
- 18 Arthur —, Swallows and Amazons author (7)
- 20 NT book: deeds (4)
- 23 Causing excited argument (13)
- 24 Placid, broken in (4)
- 25 Cartoon film drawer (8)

DOWN

- 1 Make fast: annoying situation (4)
- 2 Flexible (body) (5)
- 3 Abandoned lover of Thebes (7)
- 4 Cut into with sharp tool (6)
- 6 L.P. —, Go-Between author (7)
- 7 As, say, darin for drain (8)
- 8 Squash (fly) (4)
- 12 Quick route: time-saving play (5,3)
- 14 As, say, exhaust for drain (7)
- 16 As, say, nadir for drain (7)
- 17 Fermenting agent (6)
- 19 For us: sounds like ages (4)
- 21 Sudden turn: 60s dance (5)
- 22 Out-of-focus sight (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1265

- ACROSS: 1 Pub crawl 5 Chip 9 Rusty 10 Learned Double 12 Loyal 13 Thin on top 18 Ember 20 Gymnast 22 Burnett 23 Tease 24 Lung 25 Offender
- DOWN: 1 Parody 2 Biscuit 3 Royal 4 Well thought of 6 Honey 7 Peddle 8 Ballot 14 Israel 15 Pollard 16 Herbal 17 Appear 19 Baron 21 Mire

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